

# The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and, by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1856.

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## Review of the Week.

**R**USSIA, it is understood, has taken her choice, and although it is probable that her reply to Austria is not couched in the form of an absolute rejection, it appears to be nearly certain that it will be such as not to interrupt the course of the war. The supposition is that the Russian Government will prove to have declared the propositions of Austria a proper basis for further negotiations, but it is not supposed that even Austria will receive such an answer as the real overture for negotiation. The terms, it would appear, are offered for the acceptance or refusal of Russia. If she accepts them, it will be open to her to negotiate on the mode of carrying out the terms, and her acceptance must be the preface to any further communications. It is not supposed that she has accepted.

Nor, after the circular from the Russian Chancery to her representatives at foreign courts, was it probable that she would accede to the proposals now made. They are in fact an advance upon the Four Points, and so far the publication of the text vindicates our own Government, and assigns to Austria a new place in the relations of Europe. We have been too much disappointed in the action of that Power to lay great stress upon her present paper demonstration, and yet, unquestionably it is decidedly stronger than the treaty of December 2. The description given of the proposals in the papers does scanty justice to their real force. The plan would involve the complete resignation of Russian control over the Principalities; new religious and political rights recognised by the Sultan for his own subjects after deliberations with Austria, France, and England, and with Russia when she shall have concluded peace; complete neutralisation of the Black Sea; a rectification of the Russian frontier with Turkey, so as to leave the Danube completely free from Russian control; this ceded territory being demanded on the ground of an exchange for the strong places and territories which the Allies now occupy. Although the balance of the forces in the Black Sea would be arranged by a separate convention between Russia and Turkey, it would be under the sanction of the Allied Powers,

and it could not be altered without their sanction. Now the last Russian proposal was that the Black Sea should be neutralised by a separate convention between Russia and Turkey. The intervention of the Allied Powers was distinctly repudiated by Russia, and it has all along been understood, with great probability, that Russia would on no ground consent to relinquish any of her territory. Here then are two conditions which we may presume Russia to be at present quite unprepared to make, while they are evidently introduced into the proposals by the Allied Powers as a step in advance which they have a right to take in consequence of their military acquisitions.

As a supplement to these Austrian propositions, we have the circular of the Swedish Government, to its representatives at foreign courts, announcing the treaty of alliance with France and England. The treaty is entirely "defensive"—it does not draw Sweden out of her neutrality; it will be of none effect if Russia do not occasion its enforcement by aggressions on Swedish territory. Being alarmed at the encroachments of the great Power, especially of late, on the Norwegian frontier, Sweden lets the Western Powers defend her—that is all. At least, it is all on the face of the treaty; but evidently it renders Sweden a dependent on the Western Powers instead of being a dependent on Russia, and it gives any force proceeding up the gulf of Finland a dependent friend in its rear, instead of a Russian dependent.

We cannot even yet, however, speak with confidence. According to rule, the Ministers of this country, professedly responsible to Parliament, maintain a reserve inconsistent with real responsibility. Their reserve relates not only to military matters in which it is customarily admitted, but to political relations. We are not really certain in what position our Ministers, our Sovereign, or the country itself stands towards the enemy, our Allies, or the neutrals. For anything that we know, there may be an understanding between the diplomatists of all those countries, closer, and more mysteriously governing each member of the diplomatic circle than the relations between the Allies, and over-riding the duties which Ministers owe to their country.

There is some justification for doubts of this

kind in the disclosures respecting Kara—disclosures altogether enough to make us understand that there is something seriously wrong, without knowing the part that our own representative had taken. General WILLIAMS evidently possesses the highest capacities for a commander: his army, composed of Turkish forces, appears to have been a model of military virtue, bearing hardships which very few civilised armies have had to endure, and enduring even the last despairs of life, certain to end in death, without the disorders that usually burst forth in a soldiery thus situated. It is now known that the supplies for that heroic band were diverted by the gross corruption of the Turkish officials, particularly the officials in Asia. The food intended for the soldiers did not reach them, the ammunition was kept back, the medical stores were ludicrously inappropriate. Well, this tendency of the Turkish administration was thoroughly known to the Allies, and yet it has not been corrected. At one time we are told that effective support for General WILLIAMS was kept back by the jealousy of the French, who will not permit an English force to advance in Northern Asia; at another, that Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE, jealous of his own personal ascendancy at the Porte, had been intriguing and obstructing the really effective measures of the Turkish Government; and now he is exonerated at the expense of OMAR PACHA, who is reported to have sacrificed the interests of his adopted master the Sultan to his personal piques and projects of aggrandisement. These apologies rest upon desultory recriminations, and the net result is only that we can have no confidence either in the action of Turkey herself, or of those Allies who profess to have some kind of control over her actions.

These dissensions and defections do so serve the cause of the enemy, that if the professed leaders against Russia really intended to accommodate the CZAR by mutual compromise, they could scarcely adopt a better course.

The demonstration which reaches us this week is a real satisfaction. It is a bold protest by Sir WILLIAM CODRINGTON against the charges of drunkenness which have been so swingingly made against the English soldiers in the Crimea. Sir WILLIAM meets the charge with a direct denial

as it is applied to the soldiers at large. He admits that there are cases of drunkenness, but they are exceptional. At a time when the soldiers were enjoying an unusual supply of pay, the cases of drunkenness only amounted to one per cent. in each alternate day, and in several instances different cases of drunkenness applied to the same individual. The number of men, therefore, who are incorrigible appears to be something less than one half per cent., or allowing for cases that escape detection, between one and two per cent. This is far from being a large proportion amongst Englishmen of the uneducated class, and as Sir WILLIAM speaks with practical knowledge, his protest is likely to be as true as it is eloquent in the simplicity and directness of the language.

Another Commander appears with a protest, but this time it is not a General championing his army, but an Admiral championing himself. Sir CHARLES NAPIER joins combat with the *Times*, which had sneered at the Generals and Admirals of the present day, admitting that we cannot expect from men a genius which must come spontaneously, but insisting that officers should perform the duties set before them. Sir CHARLES, therefore, rakes up cases in which NELSON, SAUMAREZ, HOTHAM, and many others who had been before fortified rocks, and did not attempt any attack. Many dashing things have been done by frigates and boats, says Sir CHARLES, but by fleets never, except at Algiers and Acre—they were defended by Turks and Egyptians. Sir CHARLES sarcastically proposes that his old friend of the *Times* should take the command of the fleet in the next campaign. The EDITOR declines the appointment; nor is it probable that the Admiralty would select either Sir CHARLES or his protégé in Printing-house-square? Indeed, it is expected that the Admiral of the Baltic Fleet next year will be a new man—new at least in that region. Some say Admiral Lyons.

Another leader, on a more remote field, is making a progress that has been denied to our own Commanders. General WALKER must be by this time far into the heart of Nicaragua. He takes towns, seizes the notables, sentences contumacious Generals to capital punishment; and, in fact, is already acting like a dictator. As he advances, it becomes understood that he is acting with Colonel KINNEY at Greytown; no doubt, also, with a native party more or less avowed; and we must look forward at a very early date to a repetition of the Texas movements in Nicaragua. How far our Government will be able to prevent such a consummation, we do not know. By the encroachments at San Juan de Nicaragua, we have placed ourselves out of court; by our attacks on the Government at Washington, we have weakened any public opinion that could have restrained the citizens themselves; and we have even assisted in weakening the influence of the Government at Washington, which has done something towards stopping WALKER's expedition, by arresting a vessel filled with recruits at New Orleans.

In another region, too, the war makes progress; but, here, both sides are gaining ground. We mean the contested territory of the Eastern Counties Railway. We lately saw Mr. WADDINGTON explaining away the report of the Investigation Committee. He was followed up by Mr. Director FANE with astounding assertions that, instead of the £3,200 allotted by the Investigation Committee to repairs and renewals of permanent way, the Directors have expended more than £89,000, a sum far transcending anything that Mr. WADDINGTON claims. This looks strange! Stranger still, some of the explanations by Mr. HENRY

BRUCE, who appears to convict Mr. WADDINGTON of equivocation. For instance, in contradicting the statements of the Committee, that the Company had lost from £10,000 to £40,000 by frauds in the purchase of stores, Mr. WADDINGTON says that the auditors only represent the loss at £4,338, which really refers to a totally different loss, says Mr. BRUCE, namely, to the shortcoming of the stock in hand compared with that which ought to have been found according to the account. The worst disclosure, however, is that made by Colonel WYNNE, of the Royal Engineers, who, at the request of the Norwich Corporation, was appointed by the Board of Trade to report on the line from London to Norwich *via* Cambridge. That part of the line he describes as reposing upon timber sleepers, upon timber piles for the viaduct over swampy ground, and upon transverse timber beams for the bridges; the timber in all cases rotting away, and in some cases to the extent of half its thickness—a railway in active use falling away like an old ruin! Such is British commerce in 1856.

GOING OVER A RAILWAY PARAPET.—An old man in a cart, who was driving over a railway bridge near Reading, dropped his whip. It was dark, and, getting out to pick it up, he stepped on the parapet (to which the cart was very close), and immediately afterwards went over on to the rails. He died in about an hour.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The deaths of 1247 persons—namely 630 males and 617 females, were registered in London in the week that ended last Saturday. Taking the first week in each of the last ten years (1846-55) it is found that the average number of deaths then registered was 1311, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population for comparison with the present return, becomes 1442. The milder character of the weather, indicated by a rise of 14 degrees in the mean weekly readings of the thermometer, has been attended with marked effect in the reduction of the mortality. Deaths arising from pulmonary diseases, in which class bronchitis, pneumonia, and asthma form the principal heads, numbered consecutively 267, 293, and 348 in three previous weeks; last week they declined to 253. Mr. Chatwood, the registrar of the St. Paul sub-district, in St. George-in-the-East, says:—"Hooping-cough is very prevalent in my district. The total number from this disease in the metropolis was 49, not so great as in the previous week. Typhus was fatal in 47 cases; scarlatina, which declines, in 35; measles in 31; small-pox in 11. Diarrhoea is returned in only 9 cases; and for a considerable time London has been entirely free from cholera. There were 2 deaths from intemperance. Last week, the births of 853 boys and 809 girls, in all 1662 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1579.—From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM ASSOCIATION held a public meeting on Thursday evening, at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark. The principal speech was that of Sir Charles Napier, who mentioned, as a result of the labours of the association, that cadetships are now thrown open, and that his grandson, who is endeavouring to obtain one, will have a fair chance, and will only be supplanted by some one more fitted for the place. Referring to his old grievance in connexion with Sir James Graham and the want of gunboats in the Baltic, he said he thought impeachment too good for such persons. Resolutions expressing accordance with the principles of Administrative Reform were carried unanimously.

RAGGED SCHOOLS.—Lord John Russell visited the Ragged School and Farm at Gloucester, on Thursday, and afterwards presided at a public meeting to promote the objects of the school.

ACCIDENT ON THE LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.—The up Scotch express train, on Friday week, ran into a goods train on the North-Western line at Watford. The driver of the latter was just issuing from a siding into the main line, when the express caught the goods engine at the side, and threw it off the rails. The coupling-chains, however, broke and the carriages escaped without much hurt; but the guard of the express was a good deal shaken. From an inquiry subsequently made, it appeared that the driver of the goods train saw the express coming down the main line, but, miscalculating his speed, thought he should not reach the end of the siding before the express had passed. When he found his mistake, he caused the danger signals to be put up; and the driver of the express shut off his steam and reversed his engines, but not in time to prevent the collision.

## THE WAR.

THE general dulness in the Crimea has been relieved by a little skirmish between the French and the Russians, which took place on the 26th of December, by way of celebrating what is vulgarly called "Boxing Night." The volunteers of General d'Autemarre, it seems, attempted a *coup de main* against the Russians, who had taken up a position against that Commander's outposts. Favoured by darkness, our Allies killed eighteen of the enemy, made thirty-eight prisoners, and captured thirty muskets. No Frenchman was either killed or wounded. The Russians have increased the fortifications which they have raised near Inkermann, and have unmasked the batteries near the Tchernaya. They have fired with great activity on the men employed in preparing the explosion of the docks at Sebastopol; but some of the docks have already been blown up, and the rest will follow.

In the midst of diplomatic hankerings after peace, serious preparations for renewed hostilities are going on in the chief cities of the Allies and in St. Petersburg. The Council of War at Paris, of which we have heard much lately, has commenced its proceedings. The Duke of Cambridge who (for the nonce) represents England, and General Della Marmora, who, notwithstanding an accident he has met with, will represent Sardinia, have arrived. Marshal Pelissier will not represent France, as he prefers remaining in the Crimea; and his place will be supplied by General Martimprey. On the other hand, a Grand Council of War is already being held in St. Petersburg, the members of which, it is said, are principally engaged on the questions relating to the fortification of the strategic points of the Empire. The fortifications of Kiew will be finished between this time and the end of the winter. The various Generals are exhibiting great activity in erecting additional works of defence, and establishing entrenched camps for the troops who are to operate in the three provinces of Esthonia, Livonia, and Courland. Guns with a long range, and on an improved system, are being cast in the Imperial foundry at St. Petersburg; and fortifications of defence, on a vast scale, are in progress at various parts of the country. "It is believed at Revel and Riga," says a Hamburg letter in the *Independence Belge*, "that an Anglo-French force will be landed in the three Baltic provinces the moment the navigation becomes free, and that hostilities will be simultaneously carried on along both banks of the Gulf of Finland."

New levies are being perpetually made. The Czar has ordered the Minister of the State Domains to raise another corps of Chasseurs, to do battle against the enemies of "orthodoxy" and of holy Russia; the word "orthodoxy" being supposed to convey an implied threat to Austria. An Imperial order has been issued, commanding three fresh Finnish battalions of sharpshooters to be formed, together with a reserve for each battalion. Each of the new battalions is to be six hundred men strong, and the reserve one hundred and sixty-four men for each company. After May 15th, 1856, when the three fresh battalions will be completed, there will be no less than nine Finland national battalions of sharpshooters, viz., Abo, Wasa, Uleaborg, Kuopio, St. Michel, Tavastehus, Bjorneborg, Nyland, and Wyborg.

From Asia we have a few additional particulars, but none of great importance. Omar Pasha, according to a despatch from St. Petersburg, has retreated on Redout-Kaleh, where his troops suffer much from the inclemency of the weather. The Russian detachments of militia and the Mingrelian militia, says the same despatch, do great mischief to Omar's rear-guard. For two days, when near Kutsais, the army of the Turkish Generalissimo was in want of provisions, in consequence of the overflowing of the rivers. The Turks at Redout-Kaleh are unable to communicate with Souchem-Kaleh by land. Seventy Turkish vessels were recently lying at Constantinople, laden with munitions of war, ready for transport to Souchem-Kaleh; and, in a Council held on the 26th of December, the Divan decided that a new and very large army should be sent into Asia in the spring. The Ottoman forces under the orders of Selim Pasha are still encamped in the mountains of Deveh Boyoun; and Halim Pasha is reported to have arrived at Erzeroum, where troops are being collected by the Porte. The fortifications recently constructed are only mounted, it is said, with twenty-eight pieces



of cannon, and the whole place is described as in a bad state of defence; but there seems to be no probability of the Russians striking a blow at the town, as the exhaustion of their troops and the state of the roads are sufficient obstacles.

The position of Mouraviëff at Kars is thus indicated in the *Moniteur* :—

"The Russian army took up its position at Kars on the 3rd of December. The troops have been quartered in the town, and a small division of about 2,000 men, consisting of Cossacks and Irregular Kurds, has been left at Soghany Dagh, where it occupies the fortifications erected in the month of June last by General Mouraviëff. Yeni-Keni, a village some fifty-four miles from Erzeroum, on the road to Kars, is likewise occupied by the Russians, who have collected there large stores of wheat, flour, and barley.

"It appears that the Russian General is apprehensive of Selim Pasha coming to attack Kars, for he has concentrated all his forces at that spot, and has left at Alexandropol only a weak garrison, hardly strong enough to do the duties of the citadel."

General Williams has arrived at Gumri in good health.

The Councils of War held at Constantinople express dissatisfaction with Omar Pasha, and his removal from command has been suggested; but this has not been thought possible. The Russians, for the present, are dominant in Asia: perhaps the next campaign may change their fortune.

#### THE AFFAIR NEAR KERTCH.

A large quantity of forage had been secured at a place called "the Spanish Farm," seven or eight miles north-west of Kertch. The farm belongs to the Spanish Consul at Odessa, and the forage was purchased from his agent here. A strong guard was sent out to the farm to protect the foraging parties, as on all former occasions, when the enemy found that forage had been thus secured, they invariably came down in the night and set fire to it, and to the villages also that, from their proximity, appeared to aid us. Major Mc Donald, commanding this party, learning that the enemy were approaching in considerable numbers, resolved on a reconnaissance. Early on the morning of December 16th, with Captain Sherwood, his second in command, and eighty-four troopers, he proceeded in a northerly direction eight or ten miles without seeing any of the enemy, then proceeding westward for some distance, he wheeled towards the south; he had not gone far in this direction when he perceived the enemy's advanced posts who, speedily retiring, were joined by others. Major Mc Donald very imprudently still went on, and in a very short time found that the force before him, now increased to three times the number of his own, were advancing towards him. As he retired towards his camp, the enemy closing galled him with their fire, which his men were unable to return with their carbines. His men showing great steadiness, and finding the enemy outflanking his party, when a favourable opportunity occurred, he charged and cut his way through them, unhorsing from twenty to twenty-five. Pursuing his way homeward for some time unmolested, he found the Russians again on his flank. Having been reinforced by a fresh body, they now numbered upwards of four hundred. Mc Donald's men had been in the saddle from eight a.m. and it was now three p.m., his horses were fatigued, and his numbers, now somewhat reduced, were fast dropping off by the enemy's shot. Permitting them to approach him, and seeing them preparing to charge down upon his small body, he again gave the order to charge. The two parties met with a crash—a dreadful hand-to-hand encounter took place, which lasted for a considerable time. Thirty-nine of the contingent men only, with McDonald himself at their head (wounded), were this time withdrawn. These retired in as good order as could have been expected, and reached the camp about dusk, the enemy following them until within sight of the camp, but without inflicting further loss. —*Times Correspondent (Kertch).*

Captain Sherwood, who was carried off by the Russians severely wounded, died on the 19th. He was humanely treated.

#### THE RUSSIAN FLIGHT FROM SEBASTOPOL.

A letter from Frau Von B., a Russian Sister of Mercy, addressed to a friend, has found its way into the English papers. It describes the flight from South Sebastopol, after the capture of the Malakhoff, and is very interesting. We append some extracts :—"I ordered two vehicles out immediately, and sent them to the Malakhoff battery, meaning to go there myself as well. What a sight met my eyes! One huge cloud, black, but yet glowing, shrouded Sebastopol; our troops had set the town on fire—they themselves were on the march to the Tchernaya. Everywhere wounded men were walking or being transported; the regiments were returning from the city. The Lord now sent me tears—it is seldom I cry—and this relieved my heart. . . . Just as we

were going to step upon the bridge in order to follow the troops, General Buchmeier held us back, and advised us to return, for it was too dangerous, he said. I begged him to let me go, made the sign of the cross, and ran across the bridge. The troops hastened at a running pace over to the south side. The wind was so strong that the waves washed over the bridge, but, independent of that, the weight of the troops pressed it down under the water. The shots from the enemy's batteries were very frequent in this direction; but God was gracious to us. Balls fell close beside us or went over our heads, and often so near, that we all stooped low—they missed. I had strength enough to run as far as the Nicholaiëff battery, but I had no sooner reached the Sisters' room, than I felt giddy, and had to take some drops as a restorative. I was wet through up to my waist, for my dress and my feet had been all the time in the water. I asked after Sister S. She came to me with her eye bandaged up, but, thank Heaven, her wound is a slight one—not like that of poor Sister W. Then I went to see Count Osten-Sacken. I had to pass along a gallery, on which many spectators were standing; as soon as a bomb or a ball came near we hid ourselves under the archways. In the inner court of the battery I found several gentlemen of the commandant's suite, and inquired of them where I should find the Count. They told me he was up in the battery, with the Commander-in-Chief. I went up a narrow wooden flight of steps, but could only crawl up very painfully, and when I was up my senses were all but leaving me. I could just ask the Count what his commands were for the Sisters in the Nicholaiëff battery. He answered: 'Take them all away. God knows what may happen in a few hours.' Somebody said the enemy's flag was waving already on the Malakhoff. A horrid depression seized my soul. I wept without tears, and I don't know how I got down again. . . . Without losing time, I placed all my stock upon the ground, and drove off to the Michailoff battery. On the place there was a chaotic mass; the bridge was broken away, the ships of the line and the frigates were sunk, the city was in flames, black smoke mounted to the clouds, and explosions of powder made the earth tremble on every side. How hard it is to bear these trials, and how heart-rending to be a witness of all this misery! I met Count Osten-Sacken; he begged me to leave the Sister with his friend, General Martineau, and then he asked me how I myself got on, for he perceived I could hardly crawl. Looking intently at the inscription on my cross, he said: 'Truly, now art thou, Lord, our strong tower!' Not one of the Sisters has slept a wink, so much have they had to do. May the Lord himself strengthen them. I am not able to praise sufficiently their zeal and sacrifice of self."

#### WAR MISCELLANEA.

THE LATE GALES IN THE CRIMEA.—The coast was visited on the 19th of December by a frightful hurricane, which lasted several hours. An Austrian vessel, laden with one hundred oxen and two hundred sheep, was driven at night into the Bay of Sebastopol, and the batteries of Fort Constantine immediately opened upon her. Abandoned by her captain and crew, the vessel drifted to the south side of the bay, and was fired upon by the Russians during the whole of the next day, until it was set on fire and destroyed, with the loss of all the cattle on board. An English vessel, the *Caledonia*, which arrived at Kamiesch the day before, with a cargo of coal for the squadron, was thrown on the coast. The captain and crew, instead of remaining on board, where they had nothing to fear, got into a boat and were all drowned. An American transport, the *Cortes*, laden with hay, also ran aground near the *Caledonia*, but the crew and cargo were saved. Five other merchantmen, belonging to different nations, were either lost or seriously damaged. On the same day, the centigrade thermometer fell to eighteen degrees below the freezing point. Since then, however, it has risen again above that point, and on the 22nd the weather was magnificent. —*Times.*

FRENCH NAVAL PREPARATIONS.—The naval authorities of Cherbourg have been ordered to arm three screw-liners and three sailing frigates, which are to be ready for the opening of the campaign in the Baltic in April next. These three ships are the *Arcole*, 90 guns, and 900 horse-power, the armament of which is nearly completed; the *Donauwerth*, 90 guns, which is to be converted into a screw-ship, and is already undergoing that transformation, although she only arrived from the Mediterranean twelve days ago; and the *St. Louis*, 90 guns, launched at Brest on the 25th of April last, which is at present on her way from Toulon. Independently of these three ships, which are to be fitted out with all possible expedition, Cherbourg is to arm the war screw-transport *Yonne*, of 1,200 tons, the vessels of the Iceland station, and the five bomb-vessels and the twelve steam gunboats which have returned from the last campaign in the Baltic, and are to form part of the formidable expedition which is to operate in that sea next spring. —*Times.*

THE ANGLO-SWISS LEGION.—We find in the *Seize* some accounts of the Anglo-Swiss Legion. The second battalion of the 2nd Regiment must be now nearly completed by the accession of three hundred men lately enlisted at Schelestadt. Its colonel, M. Bundi, had left Coire to assume the command of the corps, the first battalion of which, commanded by M. Giusberg, is to be embarked for Asia Minor on the 15th of January. Measures are being taken in Switzerland to raise a third regiment. An officer of the 1st, now quartered at Smyrna, gives a very favourable account of it. Its sanitary condition was excellent, three of the men only having died of cholera. The troops were lodged in a barrack situated on the seashore. In the morning, the soldiers receive tea and bread; at noon, meat and soup; and in the evening, another portion of soup. Vegetables are dear; potatoes cost 20f. the sack. The officers are supplied with meat, bread, tea, and sugar, and the soldiers cook their victuals. —*Idem.*

M. GORCEVICH.—According to advices of the 26th of December from Berdiansk, in the Sea of Azof, all the vessels belonging to M. Gorcevich had left. On the day in question a very hard frost set in, and all the wheat that was to be had was bought up by Government at seventeen roubles in assignats—equivalent to five silver roubles—the tchetvert.

THE NEXT CAMPAIGN.—From a St. Petersburg letter we learn that great apprehensions are entertained in that city of the present year's campaign in the Baltic. It is feared that Cronstadt will fall, and that the Czar will be obliged to retire to Moscow.

OUR TRADE WITH RUSSIA.—In the course of a trial at the Middlesex sessions, arising out of the theft of some twine, Russian and Polish hemp were frequently mentioned. The counsel for the prisoner said he supposed the former came to England through Prussia. A witness said he believed it did; at all events, it came overland, and now there was as much Russian hemp in England as ever there was before the war.

RUSSIAN STEAMERS IN THE GULF OF FINLAND.—Before the Allies left the Gulf of Finland, the Russian fleet sent out isolated steamers along the coast to establish communications between different points. On the 14th of November, a squadron consisting of the steamers *Gromoschachi*, *Wladimir*, and *Chobri*, towing three transports and a pilot-boat, left Cronstadt, after no fewer than four days' navigation, they arrived in the roadstead of Helsingfors; they remained there four days, and then returned to Cronstadt. On the 26th of November, two of the allied vessels were seen for the last time off Helsingfors, at nearly twelve miles from the fortress of Sveaborg. They soon proceeded to the south-west, and, shortly after, the Russian steamer Count Vrontchonko was able to enter the port. On the 4th December, the coast became covered with ice, and on the 8th the telegraphic service was suspended on all the lines of the northern coast. —*Letter from St. Petersburg (Dec. 29th).*

THE FALL OF KARS.—The famine at Kars is said to have been owing to the negligence and absurdly economical spirit of Tahir Pasha, the Commissary-general. Had it not been for the energy of General Williams, the garrison would not have been victualled at all; yet this man actually refused to bring food into the town because he had n't thng but donkeys to carry it with, which he considered would be a degradation to the Imperial army! Of the heroisms and noble self-sacrifices of the time of famine, the *Times* Constantinople correspondent relates some affecting instances:—"If one listens to this tragedy, one can scarcely believe that it is not fiction. The despised Turkish army of Asia, that rabble about which everybody seemed to despair, is converted by the energy and moral superiority of a few officers into a heroic little band whose discipline, put to the severest test by famine and despair, cannot be surpassed by the first soldiers in the world. Although numbers were daily dying from starvation, no excesses occurred; in the batteries, where there were always three days' provisions, the famished sentry paced about within reach of them, without allowing himself to be overcome by the temptation. It was the story of Tantalus a thousand times, but more nobly, repeated, for it was moral courage, not physical impossibility, which prevented them from satisfying the cravings of hunger. The inhabitants themselves were scarcely behind the troops in the display of selflessness. While they had anything left themselves, they shared voluntarily with their defenders, and deprived themselves even of their beds to give comfort to some poor fellow in the hospital."

#### PUBLIC MEETING.

LORD ELGIN ON CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, AND SCOTLAND.

THE freedom of the city of Glasgow was presented to the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine on Friday week, as an acknowledgment of his great public services as Governor-General of Canada. The burgess-ticket was handed to his lordship in a massive box of silver gilt, beautifully chased, and

the Lord Provost having made a flattering speech Lord Elgin rose to reply. Of course he commenced by administering plenty of food to the national vanity of his hearers. Having pronounced the words "As a Scotchman," the audience burst forth into vociferous cheering without waiting to learn the deduction which was to be made from those premises. The deduction proved to be that the speaker could not but be sensible of the value of the good opinion which had been expressed by so great a commercial metropolis. He added:—

"Knowing, as I do, from long experience, how much Canada and how much all the other colonies owe to the enterprise of Glasgow, I cannot but feel that it is a proud distinction—the proudest distinction perhaps, to which I could possibly aspire—to find that the efforts of an individual who had laboured for many years (God knows how assiduously) to promote the interests, develop the resources, and place in a firm and rational position the system of government in that important dependency of a great empire, had been deemed worthy of recognition here." (*Loud cheers.*)

Referring to matters of personal history, he reminded his auditory that it was on that very day nine years that he parted from his family, under somewhat trying circumstances, to undertake the government of British North America. He had but recently come from Jamaica; and the contrast between the heat of that island and the intense cold of Canada gave him "an admirable opportunity of testing what is the effect of extreme degrees of temperature on the human constitution." But here again an occasion was presented for administering fresh drams of flattery to the excited Caledonians. His lordship crossed the Atlantic in a Cunard vessel; and, "for the first time," he "felt the influence of the tutelary genius of Glasgow." There was a tremendous gale; "mountains of ice" were piled in the forepart of the vessel; and the Earl was credibly informed that one hundred tons of congealed water were carried into Halifax on the prow. But he "had the fortune to be in a Clyde built steamer; so they arrived at Halifax" safely. "So smooth and steady was the action, so well founded our vessel in every particular, that I do not believe a single individual ever felt one moment of anxiety or alarm." Loud cheers followed these words.

Lord Elgin then referred to the state of Canada when he went, and to its condition when he left, and indicated the great improvements which had taken place in the meanwhile. Nine years ago, the Canadian Minister was "walking up and down the streets of London with sixty thousand debentures in his pocket, which he could not get any one to take from him for love or money." So low was the Canadian credit at that time, so reduced was the colony for want of money, that it was "obliged to issue a quantity of five dollar debentures, which were forced on wretched office-holders, who were compelled to take them, though they could not get them exchanged without a discount of somewhere from ten to twenty per cent." But now, "these same discredited Canadian securities are commanding a higher premium in the market than any other American security whatever." These good effects had proceeded from our better system of governing the colonies; for, "in our relations with them, we have substituted, for a policy of reserve and distrust, a policy of confidence." Since 1850, the progress of Canada has been allowed—even by the citizens of the United States—to have equalled, if not surpassed, the progress of the most favoured parts of the Union.

"At the meeting of the Education Board in New York, a paper was read, representing the system of education in Canada as equal to that in Massachusetts or New York, and the President recommended the system adopted at Toronto, Canada West. I do not think it is undesirable that the population of Scotland should know that there is a country not two weeks' sailing from Glasgow, possessing a fertile soil and a genial climate—possessing a population very much resembling what you find in any Scottish county, sharing our views and sentiments on all questions, moral, social, political, and, above all, religious, with the means of attaining elementary education free of cost, and on conditions that can do violence to no principle, on conditions attainable by every child in the community, and where every child of talent and industry may go to the higher school, where a superior education is given on the same terms, and from the superior school to the university."

The Earl contrasted this happy state of things with the vexatious party quarrels which have hindered the cause of education in this country.

Referring to our relations with the United

States—to the frequent dissensions we have had with them—and to the desirability of continuing on friendly terms with the great western Republic,—his Lordship gave some details of his reception by the corporation and citizens of Portland in the State of Maine:—

"We had dinner after the meeting, and at that dinner a practice was adopted which I hope will this evening be honoured in the breach rather than in the observance. We had nothing to drink our toasts to but water. Among those sentiments—for they are too wishy-washy to be called toasts—we had 'Success to the Allied Armies!'"

With respect to the war, Lord Elgin was in favour of its energetic prosecution, and thought that, "next to the successes of our arms, what we have had most reason to be thankful for is the failure of our diplomatists," who would only have deprived us of the real objects of the struggle. Returning to the question of colonial government, Lord Elgin observed:—

"Though I think we have solved one important question in colonial policy—viz. how to reconcile complete liberty of local government with the exercise of the Imperial prerogative—I do not know that that is our last difficulty. It is very possible that great colonies, assuming the whole charge of their own defence, and even coming forward to aid us in war, may not ultimately be satisfied unless they have a voice in the Imperial Government. I do not think it advisable to treat of such matters as abstract questions; but I believe when it arrives we shall be able to deal with it as satisfactorily as we have dealt with former questions, if we still meet the colonies in the same frank, open manner. What is wanted is this—it is necessary that the people of this country should look on the colonies as part and parcel of themselves, sympathise in their wishes, and rejoice in their progress. We know that many of the colonies form an admirable investment for our capital, and I am sure, if you make an investment of your affection upon the colonies, you will find an ample return in their gratitude and goodwill." (*Cheers.*)

#### THE BISHOP OF EXETER ON TABLES AND TABLE CLOTHS, &c.

THE Bishop of Exeter has addressed a letter to the Right Hon. Dr. Lushington in reference to his recent judgment in the cause of Mr. Westerton, the churchwarden of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, and Mr. Beal, an inhabitant of the district of St. Barnabas, Pimlico, against the Hon. and Rev. Robert Liddell, the incumbent of those districts. With respect to the matter of the tables, the Bishop observes:—

"Perhaps you will be surprised at my saying that it is your decision that credence tables are illegal which appears to me pregnant with serious consequences. It happened to myself a few years ago to have a complaint brought to me against a clergyman for putting a credence table within the chancel. My judgment in that case was,—'Change the name of the table, but let the table itself remain.' This, I really think, was substantially the fittest decision I could make. It gave a triumph to neither party; that was certainly well; it was disagreeable to both parties—that too, probably, was not ill. If I had been applied to before such a table was set up, to solve a doubt between this clergyman and some of his parishioners, how he was 'to do and execute' the direction of the rubric introduced for the first time in 1662,—and when there is a communion the priest shall then (after the offertory sentences) place upon the table so much bread and wine as he shall think requisite,—it is very likely that I should have said, 'Put the bread and wine upon some table within easy reach that you may be able, with least inconvenience or unseemliness, to place them on the Lord's table at the time commanded by the rubric.' If any person had been so ignorant as to object to the second table as Popish, I should have endeavoured to convince him of the contrary."

Now for the table-cloths:—

"To a variety of covers for the holy table, carried to a fantastic or great extent, I am, speaking of myself personally, opposed in taste and judgment. But I know not when or where the excess can be said to be culpable. You cut the knot by saying there shall be only one. Now, this condemns a black cloth in Lent no less than ever-varying exhibitions of covering. I frankly say that I do not assent to the entire propriety of such a decision. If anything of this sort is carried to such an extent as the Consistorial Court of the bishop shall deem inconsistent with due solemnity, that court will very properly restrain the usage. But the absolute prohibition of all variety on all occasions seems to me of very questionable fitness. A mourning cover, for instance, would seem very appropriate to a season of mourning or humiliation."

"There remain to us specimens of the massive, costly, highly wrought, richly-embroidered tapetes of

those days (the days of James I.). Not long ago, but long before these matters were questioned in courts of law, one of my country clergy showed to me an ancient specimen belonging to his church of thick silk stuff, highly wrought with gold flowers. In truth, the meaning of the words of the canon would not be quite satisfied with a 'mere covering of silk.' I certainly should not think it necessary to censure such a covering—unless, as is very possible and, I am afraid, not very improbable—in the reaction of which your judgment may very properly be made the cause—I should not say, I say, censure a mere covering of silk, unless in a wealthy parish, there was an ostentatious display of scantiness or homeliness in the silk covering itself. I should, otherwise, be inclined to leave the matter to the sense of fitness in the parties themselves. But still less should I think myself at liberty to blame a parish or parishioner for placing even a sumptuous carpet of silk or velvet, or other rich stuff, for the very richest material would appear to me 'congrua et decora' in ornamenting the house of God, especially His own holy table."

Of crosses in churches, the Bishop says that he cannot convince himself of their illegality, since he finds that they were used in and after the second year of the reign of Edward VI. Quitting a topic which the writer confesses is "tempting" to him, the Bishop winds up by a glance at the ultra-Protestantism of the present day:—

"While I write this, painful it is to reflect on the many, very many instances which are presented to us of (I will not say wilful, I may not say ignorant, but I must at least say) heedless, culpably heedless inattention to a very plain law of the church, made for the very purpose of securing the due performance of the service. If we go through the churches of the metropolis—aye, or if we go through the cathedrals of the land—it is painful to see how few there are (my own cathedral at Exeter I rejoice to say is one of the few) in which the church's law is observed, that the bread and wine be not placed on the holy table till the priest makes, and in order that he may make, the oblation of them. To those who direct the worship in those noble temples—to our deans and dignitaries—shall I be forgiven if, without making special reference to any, I venture to address a word of remembrance to all? Cathedrals are not merely places of ornate, elaborate, sumptuous worship. They were designed to be—they ought to be exemplary to the diocese at large. Now, carelessness in those who undertake the duty of setting an example of dutiful obedience to the orders of the church is something worse than carelessness—it is positive neglect of one of the not many or very onerous duties which specially belong to their offices, and for the discharge of which those who hold them are not commonly ill-rewarded. These offices are, in these days, exposed sometimes to invidious criticism and to inquiries into the reasons for which they are retained. Is the defence of them made more easy to those who wish to defend them by this too frequent disregard of a very manifest duty, to which I thus venture to solicit attention?"

We are told that "rampant Protestantism rejoices in fixing ugly names on those who hold" opinions contrary to its own, "and in hounding on the ignorant multitude to give even more substantial marks of their displeasure." The writer concludes by reminding us that it is not the Church's business to be popular, and that popularity is not the best test of its usefulness.

#### THE FATE OF FRANKLIN.

INTELLIGENCE, placing beyond a doubt the death from starvation of Sir John Franklin and his crew, has reached England during the present week. In the early part of last year, the Hudson's Bay Company sent out a party to ascertain with certainty, if possible, the fate of our countrymen. The expedition was placed under the guidance of Mr. J. D. Stewart and Mr. Anderson, and consisted of fourteen men, exclusive of the commanders. They had several narrow escapes of being "nipped" between moving mountains of ice; but—to quote from the account given by the *St. Paul Times*—

"The expedition reached what is called Montreal Island, where they fell in with some Esquimaux, who informed them where the crew of the Terror (one of Franklin's ships) met their untimely fate. They gathered up the remains of a boat having the name of Sir John Franklin on it, a hammer, kettles, part of a blue flag, and other articles belonging to the unfortunate vessel. We are informed by the Esquimaux that they reached the spot just in time to see the last man die of hunger, who was leaning against some object when discovered. He was to far gone to be saved. The wolves were very thick there, and no traces of the bones of the men could be seen, supposed to have been eaten by the wolves. The Esquimaux state that it is four years ago since the crew perished. It was on the coast opposite Montreal Island. Their bones lie buried in the sand within an extent of twelve



miles. This is the fifth winter since they perished, and the drifting sands of that barren region, being in lat. 68° north, have piled in successive layers on the bones of these noble and ill-fated men. Mr. Stewart describes the region as dreary in the extreme—not a blade of grass or a stick of timber met the eye. No game of any kind could be found. The Esquimaux, from whom their information was obtained by signs, pressed their fingers into their cheeks, and placing their hands on their stomachs, endeavoured to indicate the manner of their horrible death. They were charged with killing them, but merely answered with their sighs."

A boat, with the significant name "Terror" painted on it; snow shoes of English make; iron kettles, bearing the mark of the English Government; and a few other articles, were brought away. It is thought the crew must have travelled southward (their vessels being probably crushed in Victoria Straits), and must have endeavoured to reach some of the Hudson Bay Company's ports. This is supposed to have been in 1849 and 1850; but, when they reached the coast at the mouth of the Fish River, it is evident that death ensued from sheer exhaustion. Such is the close of one of the greatest tragedies of modern times.

#### MR. F. O. WARD ON THE TUNNEL QUESTION AND ON THE NEW METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.\*

WE have been accustomed, for some years past, to publish, as documents of permanent value, the letters by which Mr. F. O. Ward has gradually advanced the town drainage question from the uncertain condition in which he found it, to its present relatively fixed and normal position. Mr. Ward's present struggle to secure small tunnels, as "the logical consequence," to use his own expression, "of small tubes," is virtually concluded by his masterly letters, published in several of the morning journals last Monday, in reply to Mr. Burnell, a civil engineer, put forward as the spokesman of the engineers who oppose Mr. Ward's views. We regret that the length of this letter (which fills three columns and a half) precludes our publishing it in *extenso*, but the following analysis conveys, we believe, its principal points.

After a brief exordium, Mr. Ward states the views he contends for to be:—

"That the reduction of size which has been accomplished in street sewers, with a large economy of public money, may now, with proportionate advantage, be extended to the proposed main tunnels of the metropolis; or, to put the same thing in other words, that £874,000 may be saved on the north side, and a proportionate sum on the south, by the substitution of John Roe's middle-sized tunnels for the colossal tunnels of Messrs. Stephenson, Cubitt, Haywood, and Bazalgette."

This view having been contested, Mr. Ward proceeds to say, and the mathematical investigation invited by him having been successfully resisted by the Jebb party in the Court of Sewers, he had no alternative but to appeal to the public; and, to secure public attention, he put aside for the time the abstruse aspects of the question, and suggested a "plain, practical issue," based on the principle that "the question of size is virtually a question of velocity." That issue is the now celebrated "turnip-test;" a term of which Mr. Ward thus explains the origin:—

"The swifter the stream through a tunnel, the smaller the tunnel may be made. A formula which underrates velocity is a formula which overrates size, and so leads to extravagant expenditure. The formula set forth in the 'Data' of our antagonists as having been employed by them in designing their colossal tunnels may, therefore, be tested by the run of the river Fleet. According to that formula, the Fleet, at a certain point named, should run less than two miles an hour: John Roe, at that point, has seen it run upwards of ten. John Roe's observations having been questioned, I proposed to verify them by timing the descent of a float. And as a turnip, swimming just under water, makes the best float for the purpose, I happened to suggest its adoption. Hence the expression 'turnip-test.'"

Mr. Ward then proceeds to prove, in detail, that on the 8th of last November, Mr. Bazalgette made out by his formula the run of the Fleet at the point named (Pakenham-street) to be only  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile per hour, whereas a velocity of 8 miles per hour is now, since the promulgation of the turnip-test, admitted by Mr. Bazalgette himself. So again, with respect to the slope of the Fleet sewer at this point, Mr. Ward shows that on the 8th ult. Mr. Bazalgette put it at one foot and a small fraction per mile; whereas now a slope of 25 feet per mile is assigned on Mr. Bazalgette's behalf to this part of the Fleet sewer. On this discrepancy of Mr. Bazalgette Mr. Ward thus expresses himself:—

\* This article was unavoidably omitted last week. We insert it now "à titre de document."

"To the 10-foot sewer in Pakenham-street Mr. Bazalgette assigned, on the 8th ult., a velocity of only  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile per hour instead of 8, and a fall of only 1·018 foot per mile instead of 25.

"How is it that since the 'flippan't' proposal of the 'unphilosophical' turnip-test, the velocity of the Pakenham-street sewer has increased, in our opponents' estimation, upwards of six-fold, and its declivity nearly twenty-five fold?

"Does the mere prospect of this 'shallow' experiment strike our antagonists with such terror, that they hastily abandon 'delicate and abstruse' positions so boldly maintained only a short month since?

"The motive of the outcry raised against the 'turnip-test' begins, I think, to be apparent.

"This test is feared because it affords an *experimentum crucis*, intelligible to the ratepayers at large, and readily applicable to try the value of a formula hitherto wrapped in algebraic mystery.

"It inspires alarm, because for one man who understands equations, or will take the pains to check a calculation, there are thousands who can time a float; and are rather amused than otherwise at the idea of a turnip-race, with £874,000 staked on the event.

"If a tunnel will flow twice as fast as was supposed, it will also discharge twice as much, and need only be half as large; whence a proportionate reduction of its cost. Such is the train of reasoning suggested by the turnip-test. It is not too profound for the most illiterate ratepayer; it is not too long for the busiest. Hence the consternation in Great George-street; hence the loud clamour and the precipitate retreat."

Mr. Ward adds, with as much force as moderation:—

"My antagonists describe my statements to be 'glaringly at variance with truth.' I do not retort this expression. I merely call the reader's attention to it; and leave its application in his hands."

Mr. Ward disclaims the intention imputed to him by his antagonist to settle the whole question by "swimming a single float in a single length of sewer;" he says:—

"In casting (so to speak) our symbolic turnip on the waters, we challenge our antagonists to submit their views, with ours, to the test of a series of experiments, as varied as those of John Roe, and sufficiently numerous to prove him right or wrong.

"So, again, in taking the Fleet sewer for purposes of illustrative comparison, we would by no means be understood to set up that stream alone as an absolute standard. John Roe compared its flow with that of many other sewers; and the table which embodies his results (see 'Minutes of Information on Town Drainage,' p. 67) is founded, not on individual cases, but on broad averages formed with due allowance for disturbing circumstances. Amongst these, in the case of the Fleet, may be instanced, on the one hand, the steepness of its upper end, to which 'Engineer' directs attention; and, on the other, the multiplied obstructions to its current, which 'Engineer' passes unnoticed."

These obstructions he proceeds to enumerate, showing that they give an *a fortiori* value to the velocity observed in the fleet sewer; while, on the other hand, some deduction must be made for the "initial speed" acquired by the stream in descending the steep upper end of the Fleet valley; a circumstance, he adds, "which my antagonists wholly ignore." He then proceeds to observe:—

"It will, therefore, I trust, be understood, that in comparing the Pakenham-street sewer with the proposed middle level intercepting tunnel, I keep fully in view the different circumstances of the two cases; being only absolute in my denial of our antagonists' absolute formula. As, in the case of the Fleet, that formula gives a theoretic velocity of  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile per hour, against an observed velocity of 8 miles an hour; so, I contend, in the case of the middle level tunnel, will the real velocity largely exceed the theoretic two miles an hour, assigned by the same formula. That the excess in this case, as in the case of the Fleet, will be exactly in the proportion of  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 8, I neither affirm nor deny. Many points require to be known and considered before the precise deviation of the formula from truth can be determined in any given case—*as*, for instance, amongst other things, the number and position of the tributaries. But the excess of the real over the theoretic velocity is so large as to leave room for all reasonable deductions and allowances, and still remain ample for our purpose. For, as we only propose a reduction of about half in the collective capacity of our antagonists' colossal tunnels (measured at the outfall), our view will be justified if the real be only double the calculated velocity, instead of sixfold, as in the case of the Fleet; and on this we may confidently reckon."

After meeting his antagonists' doubts whether the small tunnels provide sufficiently for prospective population, Mr. Ward proceeds to answer the question, "Would not these small tunnels burst, and flood the town during extraordinary storms?" On this head, Mr. Ward turns the tables on his antagonists as follows:—

"Whether a tunnel will burst or not, depends on the ratio of its discharging power to the quantity of water it receives. John Roe's tunnels are designed with a liberal margin of discharging power beyond the amount required.

"Similar praise cannot, I fear, be bestowed on the designs, colossal though they be, of our eminent antagonists. Their high-level tunnel, for instance (the characteristic feature of their scheme), whether tested by their public or their private formula—for they have two (see 'Calculations,' p. 14)—proves to be throttled at the outfall. To remedy this serious evil, Mr. Stephenson, as I have elsewhere stated, proposes to work this tunnel under pressure; employing an accumulated head of water above, to force a passage through the stricture below. This proposal, if carried into effect, would indeed involve the bursting pressure, and the liability to flooding, so properly deprecated by Mr. Burnell; whose commendable anxiety on this head should therefore take a different direction.

"John Roe, I may mention in passing, avoids altogether this costly high-level diversion. He does not provide an enormous tunnel to take the water of sudden storms from the Hampstead hills to the Lea river; but allows them to flow down their natural channel, the Fleet (aided at one point by a loop-line), to the Thames, of which they aid the scour. So with the Ranelagh waters, further westward. John Roe does not, like Mr. Stephenson, take them in a subterranean river to the Lea at Stratford, but gives all the relief required by bifurcating the Ranelagh sewer at its outfall. The adoption of these simple expedients will save very large sums of money."

Controversialists would do well to imitate the tone of Mr. Ward's next remarks:—

"I pass over—as beside the purpose, and probably in some degree inconsiderate—Mr. Burnell's speculations as to my desire for a lucrative appointment, and the epithets which escape him in referring to my person and my principles. In debates of this kind the public attention is given not to epithets, but to arguments. The disputant who provides solid facts and sound reasonings may rely on his readers to find epithets; and to apply them as deserved."

Mr. Ward thus speaks of Mr. Roe's contributions to hydraulic science, and of the prevalent ignorance of its laws:—

"I know of no investigations, previous to those of John Roe, affording any reliable information as to the flow of water in a ramified system of town sewers. John Roe was the first to determine, by actual experiment, the yield of various classes of town surface during showers of various intensities. And John Roe also first pointed out the effect of numerous affluents on the discharging power of a tunnel. Of the ignorance that has prevailed, and still prevails, on these important questions, we have excellent proof in the fact that, up to the 8th of last month, the engineer-in-chief of the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers (Mr. Bazalgette) was actually under the impression that the maximum velocity of the Fleet, in running through a ten-foot tunnel, was only one mile and one-third per hour, for which creeping pace the swift rush of eight miles per hour is now (thanks to the turnip-test) substituted by common consent."

Mr. Ward then adverts to Mr. Burnell's display of hydrodynamic erudition; quotes D'Aubuisson; states the precise error of his antagonists' formula; puts forth one of the boldest challenges we have ever seen offered; adds a striking familiar illustration of his point; and winds up his letter by a reference to the downfall of the Jebb party, and the advent of Mr. Thwaites to power. These concluding portions of his letter we transcribe at length:—

"Mr. Burnell makes an impressive display of hydrodynamic erudition; enumerating, and recommending for my perusal, the works of 32 authors, from Galileo to D'Aubuisson. As, however, Mr. Burnell makes no quotation from any of those authorities, I will supply the omission.

"D'Aubuisson, at page 124 of his excellent 'Traité d'Hydraulique,' observes that the accelerating force of gravity, which urges a stream of water onward, 'ne dépendra que de la pente à la surface' (will only depend on the declivity of the surface.)

"It is precisely in the neglect of this principle that the main error of Messrs. Stephenson, Haywood, Cubitt, and Bazalgette consists. Their formula takes as the fall, not the surface but the bottom declivity; not the fall of the stream itself, but 'the fall of the sewer in feet per mile.' (Vide 'Data,' p. 4.) For them, therefore, the stream in a tunnel, falling one foot per mile, has this precise declivity and no more, whether it be flowing only eight or ten inches deep, or whether it be swollen by rains to the depth of as many feet. Erroneously assuming (with Bossut) an absolute parallelism between the slope of the stream and that of the channel, they ignore such modern observations as those of Mr. Rawlinson at Hitchin, who, in a 15-inch pipe, 235 feet long, falling only eight inches from end to end, found the stream, when flowing full at the head, only six inches deep at the outfall. They overlook the obvious fact that, in

this case, the surface declivity was more than double the bottom declivity—the pipe falling only eight inches, while the water fell seventeen. They are blind to the fact—self-evident for me, and experimentally established by Medworth—that the acceleration which thus diminishes, by more than half, the bulk of a running stream, makes room in the channel which conveys it (whether it be a tube or a tunnel) for tributary affluents. They do not consider that each of these affluents, as it enters the tunnel in its turn, not only brings to the main stream its own acquired momentum, but also tends to raise the water level; thereby increasing the surface declivity; thus, again, quickening the flow; and so, lastly, make room for fresh tributaries; each of which, in its turn, repeats the accelerating process, till the velocity reaches several times the amount attainable in a branchless tunnel. Not perceiving these principles, they cannot of course perceive that the larger the tunnel is, and the smaller its rate of declivity, the larger will be the proportion of velocity due to the stream itself, and the less will be the relative influence of the mere inclination of the channel. This is why the fallacy of their formula becomes more and more conspicuous as the tunnels to which it is applied become larger; and as errors of calculation involve more serious consequences. This, lastly, is why they are unable to compute the velocity of a stream through a channel on a dead level; as, for instance, through their level aqueduct over the Lea; the velocity and discharge of which are accordingly not to be found at the place where they should have been set forth (page 37 of the "Calculations.")

At this point I interpose a challenge.

"I challenge Messrs. Stephenson, Cubitt, Haywood, and Bazalgette, jointly and severally, to state, if they can, the velocity with which the water will flow through their level aqueduct over the Lea. Whatever velocity they state, I pledge myself to prove it wrong by other figures of their own."

"I am exceedingly anxious to make this matter plain to the public—to bring the fallacy of this formula home to every man's common sense."

"For this purpose let us take an imaginary case. Let us suppose that the river Thames, where it is 500 feet wide and ten feet deep, had (if I may use the expression) to be set up edgewise, and made to flow in a ravine ten feet wide and 500 feet deep. Its velocity, according to the formula of Messrs. Stephenson, Cubitt, Haywood, and Bazalgette, would not be increased by the change, provided only that the slope of the bottom of the ravine were precisely equal to the slope of the original river bed. Yet who does not see that this altered disposition of the water would transform its quiet stream into a furious torrent—tearing impetuously along, and bursting through every obstacle in its course?"

"To this formula, however, and to its extravagant consequences, Messrs. Stephenson, Cubitt, Haywood, and Bazalgette are unfortunately pledged beyond retrieval; as also were the party whom Mr. Thwaites' election overthrew. So strong were their convictions on the subject that they actually put one of these colossal works in hand; and 150 feet of 12-foot tunnel stand, a lasting memorial of error, at the east end of Victoria Park. That monstrous fragment will never, I am persuaded, be prolonged. The floods of the Fleet valley will never thunder through it; and no turnip, launched on the Runehugh rainbrook at Kilburn, will swim, whether at ten miles an hour or two, beneath its capacious arch. It will remain what it is—a dry vault; the monument, and I hope the tomb, of an exploded fallacy."

"Between the extravagant designs based on that fallacy, and the practical suggestions of 'plain John Roe's' experience, the new Metropolitan Board of Works will shortly be called upon to choose on behalf of the London ratepayers. They have made a step in the right direction by declining the presidency of a gentleman who, last month, carried against me, by two to one, a vote expressing confidence in the engineers, and refusing the inquiry I asked. They have made a step, better and bolder still, in electing as their chairman the man who, with only two to back him, stood by me on that occasion; and who, when outvoted (not out-reasoned), entered his written protest against the decision of the majority. In that moment of apparent victory Richard Jebb fell. In that moment of nominal defeat John Thwaites virtually acceded to power. Before an umpire at once so impartial and so bold, and before an assembly which has had the sagacity to single him out as its leader, I am confident truth will prevail. No juggling with double formula will puzzle their plain common sense. They will not suppress an inquiry because of its inconvenience to a clique; nor will they sacrifice £874,000 to the prestige of an eminent name."

"I have the honour to be, sir, &c."

"F. O. WARD."

"12, Cork St., Burlington-gardens, Dec. 24, 1855."

#### A THANKLESS CHILD.

A MAN named Harvey Slagg, about fifty years of age, waited a few days ago upon Mr. Norton at the

Lambeth police-court, to ask his advice under very painful circumstances. He had carried on business as a maltster at Elkington in Derbyshire, but had failed, and was reduced to live on the interest of £1,500, the marriage settlement of his wife, who was a sister-in-law of a Member of Parliament. He apprenticed his son to a grocer; but, when the youth came of age, some doubt arose as to whether the property did not belong to him, and Mr. Slagg, to avoid law expenses, consented to give up all interest in the £1,500, which he yielded to his son, together with a large amount of family plate. A grocer's shop at Camberwell was then opened for the latter, and it was agreed that the father was to live with him. But the son shortly began to pay his addresses to a young woman whom the father did not like. He therefore urged his son to make choice of some one else. The marriage, however, took place, and the son was soon induced to turn his father out of the house, and to refuse a sixpence for his support. Had it not been for the humanity of the persons with whom he lodged, he would have starved. He had endeavoured, but unsuccessfully, to earn a subsistence for himself, independent of his son; he had applied to his son for relief; and he had written to his cousin, who is the son of a member of Parliament, to intercede with his child, and endeavour to soften him. But to this latter application, the son had returned for answer that the union would be the fittest place for his father; "so that," said the poor man, bursting into tears, "he would send me as a pauper to the very parish of which I was for many years one of the principal guardians. But I would die of starvation first."

Mr. Norton, with many expressions of sympathy with the father, and of horror at the unnatural conduct of the son, placed Mr. Slagg under the care of the second clerk of the office, and referred him to the chairman of the Newington Board of Guardians. In the meanwhile, he promised to supply him from the poor-box with whatever he might require for his present necessities. Mr. Slagg expressed his gratitude, and withdrew.

#### A BLIND SWINDLER.

CHAS. ALFRED RICKABY, a notorious blind swindler and James Rickaby, his son, have been tried on two charges of forgery and fraud. In the first charge, a solicitor, named Justice, accused Rickaby of having defrauded him of £98 5s. In the month of November, 1850, Mr. Justice was visited by Rickaby, who stated to him that his name was Rowe, and that he called to request that he would immediately proceed against a man named Armstrong, who owed him money to the amount of £68, as well as rent for a house which Armstrong then tenanted. As the lawyer really had a client of the name of Rowe, whom he knew was blind, but whom he had never seen, he had no doubt of the truth of Rickaby's statement, and therefore wrote to Armstrong in the usual form, requiring payment. Armstrong shortly afterwards called upon him and agreed to pay the £68, and also a half quarter's rent; but he said that before he did so he should require that certain deeds relating to property which belonged to his wife, and which he said had been handed to the pretended Mr. Rowe, should be given up. This request was communicated to Rickaby, who again called at Mr. Justice's office, and said that he was willing to deliver up the deeds, but as he had placed them in other hands, and had money advanced him upon them, he could not give them up until he was paid the £68. The lawyer therefore at once gave the prisoner a check for that amount, and he left the office, promising to bring the deeds that afternoon; but Mr. Justice from that time saw no more of either Rickaby or Armstrong. The whole affair was then discovered to be a fraud, and Armstrong was subsequently tried and sentenced to imprisonment.

The second case against Rickaby was one of forgery, a £50 bill of exchange having been signed in a false name and uttered. In this transaction he was assisted by James Rickaby, his son, and a young man named William Cox, who also appeared in the indictment. Last September, Messrs. Howard and Gatty, solicitors, in Angel-court, Throgmorton-street, were called upon by the blind impostor and Cox, the former of whom stated that he had been recommended there by a Mr. Thompson, and that he wished the firm to institute proceedings against a gentleman living in Connaught-terrace, Edgware-road, named Howard Clinton, who owed the prisoner £120. Mr. Howard accordingly wrote to the address mentioned, requiring payment of the money, and in due course he received a letter acknowledging the debt and offering to pay £70 down and the remainder by a promissory note at a month. The lawyer upon this communicated the proposed terms to Rickaby, who at once acceded to them, and eventually Mr. Howard received a letter from the supposed Howard Clinton, containing £70 in bank-notes and a promissory note for £50. These he shortly afterwards handed over to Rickaby; but some difficulties arose as to the payment of the money, Rickaby wanting Mr. Howard to cash the £50 promissory

note for him, which the lawyer refused to do. As Mr. Howard learnt not long after this that Rickaby was in custody, he made an investigation of the matter, and discovered that the affair was an imposition; that no such person as Howard Clinton lived at the address which had been given, but that young Rickaby had had letters addressed to him in that name, at a stationer's shop, for which he had paid 6d. The letter to Mr. Howard, and the signature to the promissory note which it inclosed, were ascertained to be in the younger Rickaby's hand-writing.

The only evidence against Cox appeared to be that he had accompanied Charles Rickaby on the first occasion of the visit to Mr. Howard's offices, and the Recorder at the close of the case for the prosecution intimated his opinion that there was not sufficient evidence as regarded him to go to the jury.

Rickaby was convicted on both charges. His son was found guilty on the second indictment. Both the prisoners asserted their innocence in a very insolent manner; and the father had the effrontery to say that if he only had time he would bring Mr. Clinton forward as a witness to prove that he had paid the promissory note, as he was then returning home from America for that purpose. The Recorder sentenced both the Rickabys to four years' penal servitude.

#### TWO EXECUTIONS.

EXECUTION OF JONATHAN HEYWOOD.—This man, who was found guilty, at the last Assizes, of the murder of a woman with whom he had cohabited, was hung at Kirkdale on Saturday morning last by the ubiquitous Calcraft, notwithstanding the efforts of the local agents for the abolition of capital punishment, who prayed for a reprieve. Mr. Thomas Wright, "the prison philanthropist of Manchester," paid frequent visits to the prisoner in the condemned cell, and succeeded in inducing him to express repentance for the licentious life he had led. Heywood did not, however, acknowledge that he had committed the crime for which he was about to suffer; and he exhibited great self-possession to the last, combined, however, with religious devotion. He ate a hearty supper on Friday night, and slept till five o'clock on Saturday morning. An immense crowd assembled to witness the execution; and some missionaries, baulked in their attempts to see the prisoner, dispersed themselves among the people, and "improved the occasion" by exhorting the young to take warning by the example offered them, and to live in temperance. It is said that their efforts were attended with some good in leading to a greater degree of decorum.

ABRAHAM BAKER, the murderer of the girl to whom he was engaged, Naomi Kingswell, at Southampton, was hung at Winchester, on Tuesday. He met his end with great calmness. During his last days he completely exonerated the girl from charges which had been made against her moral character. He wrote a letter to each of his relations, and left the ensuing paper, addressed to the chaplain, but not finished:—

"Jan. 8th.

"Mr. Rogers.—Dear Sir,—May the Lord help me to leave a few words as my last here on earth—and may the Lord bless them—to every one of my dear fellow-prisoners, and may the Lord bless you, my dear minister—may you be enabled to show the rest of your flock the way to the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness—which sin shortened my life. What has brought me here? Pride—short prayers—not reading my Bible—Sabbath-breaking, and all manner of wickedness, which ended my days for shooting of my fellow creature. And may this be a solemn warning to you all for life. When I was brought to prison at Southampton my minister read the 53rd of Isaiah, which overflowed my eyes with tears; another minister read the 51st Psalm, and showed me the awful condition I brought myself to, and my wicked heart began to open. I questioned myself as to who made me, and where I should go if I was to die this night, and began to cry, 'God be merciful to me a sinner.' I began to read my Bible; I read the New Testament right through, and seemed to understand it by praying to God for the help of the Holy Spirit."

The same devotional spirit was exhibited to the last. As he walked to the drop, his voice was heard appealing to the Lord to receive his soul.

#### OUR CIVILISATION.

MR. COMMISSIONER EVANS AND MR. LLOYD.—We have received a visit from a friend of Mr. Commissioner Evans, who undertook to express the dissatisfaction of that gentleman at the following remark which we appended to the case of John Ballad Lloyd, as detailed last week under the head of "Our Civilisation":—"On the face of it, the case seems one of great hardship." We really do not see what occasion the Commissioner has for being offended, or for connecting the observation with himself. Lloyd asserted before Alderman Copeland, and his assertions have not yet been disproved, that an illegal seizure had been made upon his goods by some person not named; that the bed had been taken from under his wife, who had but recently been confined; and that the very windows and doors had been carried away from his dwelling. It was in the desperation of this poverty and wrong



that he committed the unjustifiable outrage on Mr. Commissioner Evans, under an idea (whether right or not) that the Commissioner ought to assist him. We are very well aware that a counter statement will often entirely change the aspect of a case; and therefore we used the qualifying expression, "On the face of it," &c. But, judging from the facts then known, the case was hard; and we have not yet seen any statements calculated to alter that impression. However, as it does not clearly appear that Mr. Commissioner Evans was the cause of the (alleged) illegal seizure, he has really no occasion—or none that we know of—to connect himself with our imputation of hardship. His friend was at rather unnecessary pains to expound the truism that a judge must be protected from outrage on the bench; but this is a point upon which there can be no two opinions, and which is quite beyond the necessity of discussion.

**ROBERT AND ATTEMPTED MURDER.**—Mr. Secker, housekeeper to Mr. Crossland, bookseller, Fenchurch-street, went into his master's cellar on the evening of the 1st of January, and, finding the coal-shovel removed and placed against the door of a cupboard in the cellar, he suspected something wrong. He took up the shovel, and then discovered three youths in the cupboard, one of whom immediately said, "Murder him!" They accordingly rushed at him, beat him with a stick till he was insensible, and then escaped from the house. Mr. Secker pursued as soon as he came to his senses, and a passenger in the streets secured one of the lads. The other two got off, but have since been captured; and all are now under remand at the Mansion House, together with an accessory before the fact. The lads say they were encouraged to enter the premises by some of Mr. Crossland's boys, and that they should not have assaulted Mr. Secker had he not struck at them with the shovel.

**RAILWAY STATION ROBBERIES.**—William Jones, John Underwood, and William King, "swell-mobsters," are under remand at Lambeth, charged with picking pockets at the Waterloo station of the South-Western Railway. On being taken into custody, the two former made a desperate resistance, and a large mob of disreputable characters attempted a rescue.

**BASE MONEY.**—The New Court (Central Criminal Court) was occupied the principal part of Tuesday trying prisoners for passing base money—a crime which, notwithstanding the severe sentences generally passed, is most fearfully on the increase. Although so short a time has elapsed since the last sessions, seventeen prisoners, or nearly one-third of the persons committed, were charged with this class of offence; only one prisoner out of the seventeen tried was acquitted, and the others were sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from six to eighteen months. It appeared from the evidence adduced during the day that there have been in circulation a great many spurious half-crowns struck in hard metal and electroplated. They will not, however, bear a close inspection, being a very rough imitation. They will not bend in the detector, but, being rung upon a hard substance, sound very dull.

**THE WIFE MURDER AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.**—The inquest on Beardmore has terminated in a verdict of manslaughter against her husband.

**INSANE HOMICIDAL MOTHERS.**—Mary McNeill, spinster, has been tried at the Central Criminal Court for the murder of her two children, under circumstances described in the *Leader* of December 8th. She was acquitted on the ground of insanity, which is hereditary in her family.—Sarah Allen, a married woman, has also been acquitted, on the same ground, of the murder of two of her children, whom she threw into the Thames late at night, close to the Cadogan pier, Chelsea. She took three of her children out in a fog, threw them into the water, and afterwards went to the house of a friend in great distress, and said she had lost her children. It was two o'clock in the morning before she returned to her husband, and she then appeared in an agony of grief. By the time she reached home, two of her children had been rescued, and were with their father; but one of these subsequently died, and the third child was not recovered until dead. The woman was afflicted with a fear that she, her husband, and her children, were acrofulous, and this appears to have upset her reason. In this case, also, madness was in the family.

**GAME LAW CASES.**—Stephen Goodsell, a labourer in the employ of a farmer at Ewhurst, Sussex, was convicted at the latter end of last November of setting traps for taking game. Within the last few days, he has appealed to the Quarter Sessions against the decision of the county magistrates; and the court has quashed the conviction, and ordered the magistrates to pay the costs, amounting to £26. Henry Hoile, a youth about seventeen years of age, was charged at the Wingham Petty Sessions with shooting a pheasant, the property of Mr. Rice, M.P. for Dover. The bird had strayed on to the land of the boy's master, a farmer; and Hoile said he shot at it to scare it away, as there were "a terrible many" birds about the land, and he was told to drive them off. He was fined £1, and 17s. 6d. costs; one of the magistrates (Sir Brook Bridges) observing, "It will be a very good

warning to you." The lad asked for a time to pay the money, but was refused; and he was actually sent to prison for one month, with hard labour. Lord Lonsborough, having sent £5 to the lad, received the following insolent letter from one of the bench:—

"My Lord.—Being one of the magistrates on the bench at the time that Henry Hoile was fined 20s., and 17s. 6d. costs, for shooting a pheasant, I feel that my decision, in common with that of the other magistrates present, is called in question, in a manner not the most courteous, by your extraordinary freak of sending £5 to the boy as a reward for his misconduct, without being yourself at all cognisant of the merits of the case. Into those merits I do not choose to enter. Suffice it that a decision was come to, and on it the magistrates are content to stand, your lordship's objection notwithstanding. Whether the case was one which ought to have been prosecuted, I know not, and shall not stop to inquire. My object in writing is to request that your lordship will be good enough, should you require any outlet for your liberality, to bestow it on some one worthier of it, and, at the same time, to extend your mistaken criticisms to some other bench than that of Wingham; and, by your lordship's permission, I would suggest that one to which your lordship belongs.—I have the honour to remain, your lordship's obedient servant, Nab. Hughes D'Aeth. Knowlton-court, Dec. 20, 1855."

**A POETICAL AND RELIGIOUS TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN.**—The holder of a ticket-of-leave, a young man named James Donovan, who sometimes calls himself John White, has been examined before Mr. Yardley at the Thames police-office, on a charge of burglary. He has been convicted of robbery several times before, and other cases against him are now pending; but it was stated that, while in confinement in Portland prison, his conduct was "exemplary," and in other confinement good. Some letters to his parents were produced, and on one of them the following lines were written in his own hand:—

"Pain do I wish the day was come  
For me to see my native home,  
My father and my mother dear,  
Their hearts to comfort and to cheer;  
But faith is weak, affection strong,  
And time appears to be so long."

On another of these letters, announcing the death of his brother, Donovan had written some verses, copied from a child's book of poetry, and called the "The First Grief:—"

"Oh, call my brother back to me,  
I cannot play alone;  
The summer comes with flower and bee—  
Where is my brother gone?"

When before Mr. Yardley, Donovan made a long defence in a whining tone, and cried, bellowed, and roared. He said it was hard, very hard, he should be taken into custody for an offence of which he was innocent, and all his former delinquencies brought up against him by the hard-hearted police. He had behaved well in Portland prison, and his papers proved he was a good man there. He was inclined to do good and walk in the ways of righteousness; but some persons got hold of him on New Year's night and made him drunk, and a man gave him the box to carry (he had been found in the middle of the night carrying a box which contained stolen property). He begged for mercy, on account of his father and mother. This affair, he said, would carry them to the grave if he was committed for trial. He was committed for trial, nevertheless, and, having been found guilty, was sentenced to six years' penal servitude.

**DROWNED WHILE THIEVING.**—A man at Manchester, while endeavouring to steal lead from a roof, missed his footing, and, falling into the Rochdale canal, which flows underneath, was drowned.—Another man in the neighbourhood of Kingston, Surrey, was drowned in a well, while stealing apples from an orchard early last November. He was intoxicated at the time. The body has only just been discovered.

**ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE FROM HERTFORD GOAL.**—John Williams, alias Goodenough, a burglar, has endeavoured to escape from Hertford Goal. He was discovered while removing the iron bars at the window of his cell, and made a desperate resistance. He threatened to destroy himself, and for sixty hours refused food. He was then removed to Millbank, when he consented to receive nourishment. The same man once attempted to escape from Reading goal; and one of his comrades says there is no building in England strong enough to keep him in or to keep him out.

**TURNPIST STEALING.**—Three women at Stratford-on-Avon have been sentenced to a week's imprisonment for stealing a few turnips.

**EVERETT CARLTON,** an old man nearly seventy years of age, surrendered at the Central Criminal Court, to take his trial for manslaughter. He had been committed upon the coroner's warrant, and had, it appeared, unskillfully set a copper, the result of which was that a fire took place, causing a loss of life. He was acquitted.

**THE HYDE PARK RIOTS.**—Charles Madgett, William Gearing, and William Beuley, the three constables who were reported by the Hyde Park Police Com-

mission to have misconducted themselves on the 1st of July, surrendered on Thursday to take their trial at the Central Criminal Court. Madgett was found guilty, and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment; but the others were acquitted.

**MORE CHILD-STARRING.**—John Satchwell, an excavator, and Maria Satchwell, his wife, were charged at Southwark with neglecting to provide proper nourishment for their children, aged five, seven, ten, and eleven years. These, it appeared, were only the children in law of the man. Two children whom the woman had had by her present husband were well provided for. The details were very similar to those in previous cases, and exhibited deliberate brutality on the part of the parents, who generally fared sumptuously while their offspring starved. A woman who lodged in their house on one occasion pledged a pair of boots for Mrs. Satchwell for sixpence, with which she purchased bread and bacon, and sent it to her; but no portion of this reached her children. The man and his wife were committed for trial.—Edward Harvey and Harriett Ray have been tried on the charges detailed in our last week's paper. The latter was acquitted, and the former found guilty, and sentenced to imprisonment and hard labour for a year.—Charles Butler and his wife, indicted for the murder by starvation of their child, have been acquitted, since it appeared that they were in so abject a condition of poverty that they were unable even to support themselves.

**CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.**—A farmer named William Pevowne was summoned before the Guildford Bench of Magistrates, at the instance of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, for working two horses which had sustained serious injuries in the legs, and which he had bought of a man to whom they had been entrusted to be killed. The bench said they were unable to decide upon a question which was simply one of opinion as to whether the animals were or were not fit to work; and therefore the summons was dismissed, to the surprise of the court.

**A MONOMANIAC.**—Joseph Berridge, a man who recently pleaded guilty to a charge of threatening to shoot the Rev. Mr. Brown, under the impression that he had seduced his wife, and who was liberated on finding bail for good behaviour, has been again brought before the Central Criminal Court. Since the former proceedings, he has sent threatening letters to the committing magistrate, and also to Mr. Brown. He has therefore been again ordered into custody, and sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment.

**JUVENILE BEGGARS.**—Some revelations with respect to the child beggars who crowd about bakers' and eating-house windows, came out on Monday at the Mansion-house, where a little boy, about nine years of age, was charged with begging. A baker's shopman said he had often tested the alleged hunger of the children by giving them bread; but he had discovered they did not eat it. When bread had been given to them by passers-by, they had often asked him to buy it at a reduced price; and had he given this, it would have gone to the parents for the purchase of drink. Sir R. W. Carden, who stated his opinion that begging would never be put down until the givers as well as the recipients of alms are punished, said that some beggars to whom a lady of his acquaintance had given three or four pounds of beef steaks went into the shop of the butcher where the meat was bought, and, laying down the steaks, said, "You know we don't want this. Take it back, and give us the money you got for it; or buy it from us at any price you can afford." In the present case, the boy was detained, and the police were ordered to look after his parents.

**KNOCK-TURNAL ABUSEMENTS.**—Mr. K. H. Cornish, a medical student of St. George's Hospital, has been fined £3 for wrenching, off a door in Ebury-street, Finsbury, a knocker and a bell-pull. It appeared that he had been at some Christmas entertainment, and was returning late at night, intoxicated, when he was seized with a vehement desire to wage war upon the knockers and bell-pulls. Even after he was in the custody of the police, he rushed towards a door and said he would have the knocker.

#### AMERICA.

The "difficulty" with Mr. Crampton seems to be growing less and less every day. It is thought that that gentleman will not be compelled to retire, but that the United States Government will recognise the fact that he only acted under the inspiration of the home ministry, and will receive the explanations of that ministry as satisfactory. The Speaker is not yet elected at Washington; and in the meanwhile the President has caused his speech to be put into type in his own mansion. Abuse of confidence on former occasions is alleged as the cause of this extraordinary proceeding.

Great interest and agitation have been aroused by the seizure at New York of the steam-ship *Northern Light*, on a charge of being engaged in a "filibustering" expedition to Nicaragua. She was brought to by a shot from the United States revenue cutter

Washington, and compelled to return and anchor in the North River. Two officers were sent on board, where about three hundred and fifty young men, mostly in destitute circumstances, were found. A disagreement arose between these officers and Captain Tinklepaugh, a custom-house agent, and ultimately the hawser was cast off, and the steamer proceeded down the bay on her voyage, with the United States officers on board. The revenue cutter was towed after her, and she was again brought to. The passengers were ordered to remain on board during the night, but some were smuggled on shore. On the following morning security was given for the ship; the chief officers were held to bail; and the steamer was released. Several persons, including the Nicaraguan minister, were arrested, and many of the passengers were put ashore.

Referring to this event, the *Tribune* says that the United States authorities have been furnished with affidavits and documents—which they deem irrefutable—showing that a wide-spread movement has been commenced all along the Atlantic seaboard of the United States to send men and arms to Nicaragua, for the purpose of organising an army in that State to descend upon Cuba and St. Domingo, and wrest them from their present possessors. After the consummation of this design, the parties interested in the movement propose to unite into one confederacy the State of Nicaragua and such other portions of Central America as may be acquired by conquest or otherwise, Cuba and St. Domingo, and either to set up a separate republic, or to apply for admission into the American Union as slave States.

At New York, there was an active demand for money, but with an adequate supply, at ten to twelve per cent.

**A LEGISLATIVE QUARREL IN GRENADA.**—The legislative business of the Grenada session was opened on the 27th of November. In consequence of a difference which existed in reference to the Money Bill for 1856, the House sent an address to the Executive, praying for an adjournment until the 17th of February. This not having been granted, the House had refused to meet, and it was rumoured that his Excellency intended convening it by proclamation for the 18th of December. It was believed that this would lead to a dissolution, which would be fraught with great inconvenience to the public.

#### THE ORIENT.

**BURMAH.**—(From a Private Correspondent).—There is but little news to send you from Burmah. Major Phayre's embassy was to have left Ava on the 15th, and would reach Prome on the 22nd. The Governor-General is expected to visit Rangoon during November, and will perhaps make a trip up country, but will of course not visit Ava. This whole country is perfectly tranquil. The embassy was most courteously received, and it is said that the arrangements made by Major Phayre with his Burmese Majesty have been satisfactory to both parties. This country is marvellously fertile, and only requires men properly so called to make it of immense value.

**AN ENGLISHMAN'S EXPERIENCE OF THE REBELLION IN CHINA.**—A gentleman in China, writing to a friend in Exeter, says:—"The rebellion still continues in China, but is now principally confined to the mountainous parts. The rebels in the neighbourhood of Canton were some time since driven away and captured, and the trade has been revived. By a report, obtained recently from good authority, it appears that upwards of 70,000 men have been publicly executed in Canton since the commencement of the Chinese new year, on the 17th of February last. The same authority states the number put to death at Shan-king-fu at 27,000, and about 25,000 at the taking of the fort in Blenheim Reach, and the subsequent captures among the villages thereabouts. I believe, however, that the numbers are very much understated. I was at Canton in February last; and visited the rebels at the fort in Blenheim Reach. I went also to the execution ground at Canton, and it stank worse than half-a-dozen slaughter-houses. The sides of the walls were sprinkled and covered with blood. The cloths and 'tails' of the unfortunate wretches were lying in heaps, and the ground was covered with clotted and dried cakes of human blood. In many of the villages near Blenheim fort, and other places adjoining, houses have been erected where suspected or proscribed persons may commit suicide, and thus save their posthumous reputations, and be buried by their friends; and hundreds are said to have gone to these places (where their bodies would be identified), and put an end to their existence by hanging or taking opium. Many women (probably those who had lost all hope of support or safety) have also destroyed themselves. Such things as these show how sad is the state of native society, and how wide-spread is the desolation the insurrection has caused in that province. Its results, so far as one can judge, have been unmitigated evils to the people of both parties. On the 9th inst. one of the leaders, named Kam Sin, was put to death by a lingering punishment—having been cut up into one hundred and eight pieces. There

are three grades of this mode of execution; the other two, where the criminal is divided into twenty-four or thirty-six pieces, not being considered so disgraceful. This leader headed the bands which threatened the north of the city last autumn and winter. More than three hundred of lesser note were executed the same day, and on one day last month over seven hundred were executed. There has been a festival of seven days lately held, something like an All Souls' festival, for the repose of the spirits of the officers and soldiers killed during the contest. One of the most affecting sights connected with the matter is that of one hundred or more coolies, lounging about the streets, waiting for the executions, that they may pounce upon and seize the yet palpitating bodies, to hurry off with them to the pits. I have no doubt that the number of lives lost on both sides throughout the empire, since the rebellion commenced, is 2,000,000."

**TORTURE IN INDIA.**—A man named Muntoo, who was arrested at Calcutta on a charge of theft, has been tortured by the Mohurri to make him confess. According to his own account, he was hung to the rafters by the wrists, severely beaten, and squeezed with a bamboo. The fact having been brought under the notice of the higher authorities, the Mohurri and his accomplices were committed for trial, and, being convicted, were sent to work in chains on the Alipore gaol.

#### IRELAND.

**LEGAL PROMOTION IN IRELAND.**—Mr. Matthew B. Sausse, Q.C., formerly Crown prosecutor on the Leinster Circuit, has been appointed to a seat on the judicial bench at Bombay. The salary is £6,000 a year. Sir William Jeffcott, Recorder of Penang, another member of the Irish bar, had been recently promoted to that office, but died before he heard of his advancement.

**THE SHIPPING TRADE OF BELFAST.**—The Belfast papers publish the annual list of the vessels registered in the Custom's revenue, as arrived at that port on the 1st of January, 1856. From this semi-official document it transpires that the commercial relations of the past year have been less favourable to speculation in the shipping trade than in either of the two years preceding the present war.

**IRISH MINING ENTERPRISE.**—At the half-yearly meeting of the Irish Mining Company, a very satisfactory report was read, showing an exceedingly prosperous condition of the copper, lead, and coal mines.

**RIKANDISM IN KING'S COUNTY.**—The northern portion of King's County has been the scene recently of rifeand conspiracies and agrarian outrages, though these latter have happily stopped short of murder. The rest of Ireland is tranquil.

#### LETTERS FROM PARIS.

(From a Private Correspondent.)

I REGRET having been unable to write to you an account of the reception of the troops. It was truly a grand spectacle, and a curious one to observe. I never knew till then how thoroughly military a nation was France. The population was moved not by a sentiment of compassion, but of glory: moved to tears. I confess, in all humility, I was as weak as the rest. And yet no one despises more heartily than myself the profession of a soldier. To slaughter men for a sou a day! Fi!

In the midst of the general emotion, I picked up two mots interesting enough. A bourgeois, a real Prudhomme, seeing the movement in the streets and in the feelings of the people, growled out between his teeth, "Tout ça, c'est encore du désordre." We have fellow-citizens whose ideal of a well-constituted society is an oyster-bed! When the Voltigeurs de la Garde began to file off, I heard behind me a sturdy voice saying, "Ces Jean F—s là! Heureusement, il n'en reste que le tiers." I turned round to look at the man who was speaking so energetically—it was the venerable chaplain of the Zouaves, *en soutane*, if you please! His mot reminded me that the Guard had exchanged a shot or two with the Zouaves. But all this is past and gone.

In the financial world, nothing is talked of but the last coup of the Perciers, who have (some say) "made" ("convey, the wise it call") fifteen millions of francs (£600,000) in the amalgamation of the gas companies.

In the *monde honnête*, the subject of all conversations has been the death and burial of our great sculptor, DAVID D'ANGERS. His death has been hastened by exile, by chagrin, by his country's sufferings and by his own; in a word, by the Second of December. He was a very rare exception, almost unique, amongst us, in that the grandeur of his genius was united with uprightness of heart. He loved, with equal passion, art and liberty; his political life was spotless; he made no concession to persons, nor to circumstances; and even in the presence of death, when all his limbs were paralysed, his firm and persistent energy of will clung to the great ideas of his life. He desired that his funeral

should be of the strictest simplicity in memory of his poor and humble origin. He forbade his body to be carried to the church, that he might not perform an act of hypocrisy after death which he had never performed in life. He would not permit a decoration, which he never wore in life, to be placed upon his coffin, nor the uniform of the Institute, which he considered absurd.

The crowd which followed his body to Pere la Chaise numbered from 1,000 to 1,200 persons, and was composed of two distinct sections—artists and republicans. All our great artists were present to render homage to the father of our modern sculpture. All the chiefs of the republican party had appointed to meet at his grave: Carnot, Goudchaux, Cavaignac, Guinand, Jean Reynaud, Henri Martin, Béranger, Martin de Strasbourg, Jules Simon, Sarrans Jeune, Marie, Crémieux, Manin, Vaulabelle, Pelletan, Despois, Charton, Charles Thomas, Corbon, all the writers of the *Siccle* and the *Estafette*, and many others, whose names I omit. Behind the leaders of *l'opinion honnête*, came that *élite* of the schools which seeks to revive public spirit: these were the young men who hissed Niard and Sainte Beuve the other day, and who hiss *La Florentine* every evening at the Odéon, not only because it is a wretched piece, but because it is supposed to be under the patronage of Prince Napoleon.

The cortege was closed in by two lines of police agents, some in private costume, others in uniform. These gentlemen were so numerous, that a man of the people asked if the departed was General of the sergents de ville, seeing that they had all come to his funeral!

The approaches to the cemetery were guarded by cavalry. Within these were detachments of gendarmes mobile on all sides, occupying every height, carbine in hand, vigilantly watching the cortege.

A few select persons were enabled to reach the tomb. The rest were prevented by crossed bayonets. M. Halévy delivered an address, simple, heartfelt, and almost courageous. After which the crowd retired in perfect order, under the eyes of the police. Coming out of the cemetery a few young men cried, *Vive Béranger!* The patriarch of song replied to them with his paternal accents: *Mes enfants, ce sera bientôt mon tour.* A few, more imprudent than the rest, shouted, *Vive la Liberté!* they were immediately laid off, and I have not heard of their destination.

Allow me to mention an incident, which may give you some idea of the depth of hypocrisy to which we have sunk. The very day of the funeral, a former friend of M. David came to the house of the departed, went into the porter's lodge, and said to the concierge in an unctuous voice, "You will tell Madame David that I heard she had not sent the body of her husband to the church, and that I have been to pray for him." Now, who do you think this excellent Christian was? M. Veillot!—No. A new convert, M. Niard? Do you give it up? It was M. de CORMENIN, the author of the "Livres des Orateurs!"

#### CONTINENTAL NOTES.

##### PEACE PROSPECTS.

THE ill-feeling of Austria against Russia increases day by day. It is said to have been caused by the insolent bearing of the Russians towards the subjects of Francis Joseph, who are openly taunted with their obligations towards the Czar. One of the Russian diplomatic agents is reported to have said of the Austrians, "These wretched creatures to whom, a few years since, we gave back a kingdom (Hungary), are ready to assist in taking from us a province." Great coldness, therefore, exists between the two empires; but it is doubtful whether Austria will draw the sword—at least, during the present year. The differences on the subject of religion—the claims of each nation to be considered as belonging to the only "orthodox" church—are adding their contribution to the fuel which may at length be kindled. The Austrian clergy are very much opposed to Russia; and the Emperor, as we know, is greatly under the influence of the Church.

A circular from Count Nesselrode, dated Dec. 22nd, has been transmitted to Austria. It contains proposals for peace, which are a repetition of those which were presented a few weeks ago by Prince Gortschakoff to Count Buol, at Vienna, and with which our readers are acquainted. Their object is to exclude all ships of war from the Black Sea, with the exception of those belonging to Russia and Turkey, who are to determine the number which will satisfy each, without the ostensible participation of any other Power. These terms, it is needless to say, will not be listened to.

That the Russian ambassador at Vienna does not feel himself on comfortable terms with those of France and England is evidenced by an anecdote related by the *Times* Austrian correspondent, who says, "On the 31st of December, M. Von Stackhausen, the Hanoverian Minister, invited some acquaintances to see the old year out and the new one in, and his guests were, the members of the Russian, English,



and French embassies. The first arrival was Sir Hamilton Seymour, who chanced to be so deeply engaged in conversation when Prince Gortschakoff entered that he did not remark his presence. The Russian Minister had hardly made himself comfortable in his chair when M. de Bourqueney, accompanied by one or two of the members of the French embassy, arrived. Whether the air of the room was oppressive or whether Prince Gortschakoff was out of his element, I cannot say; but certain it is that he left the house soon after M. de Bourqueney entered it.

The *Emancipation* of Brussels says that Count Esterhazy met with a very cold reception from the Czar. The Count on handing to him the Austrian ultimatum (if it may be so called), beseeched him to agree to the honourable conditions to which the Emperor Francis Joseph had taken a firm resolution to adhere; but Alexander made no reply, and shortly changed the subject. A second attempt was made by the Count, but failed. These stories, however, must be received with caution. On the other side of the question, the *Dresden Journal* states that telegraphic despatches from St. Petersburg have been received, representing that the peace negotiations are progressing favourably, and that an unconditional rejection of the proposals by Russia is not feared. Colonel Mauteuffel, it is said, has delivered into the hands of the Austrian Emperor a despatch from the King of Prussia, refusing, on the part of that monarch, to enforce the conditions of Austria. Captain Von Rauch has left Berlin for St. Petersburg, bearing private despatches from the King and Court to the Imperial family of Russia.

Count Nesselrode has declared confidentially to M. de Seebach that in his opinion Russia made, in the circular of the 22nd of December (relating to the closing of the Black Sea to all but the ships of Russia and Turkey), the last concessions that she ought to make.

The Danish Government, in a circular addressed to the various European States, renews the declaration in virtue of which it persists in continuing its position as a neutral Power, and declines to admit that it is bound in any way by the treaty concluded on the 21st of November between Sweden and the Western Powers.

The *Independence Belge* publishes the text of the propositions submitted by Austria to the Czar:—

#### "I. DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

"Complete abolition of the Russian protectorate. The Danubian Principalities shall receive an organisation conformable to their wishes, to their wants, to their interests, and this new organisation, respecting which the population itself will be consulted, shall be recognised by the contracting Powers and sanctioned by the Sultan, as emanating from his sovereign initiative. No State shall be able, under any pretext whatever, under any form of protectorate, to interfere in the question of the internal administration of the Principalities; they shall adopt a definitive permanent system demanded by their geographical position, and no impediment can be made to their fortifying, in the interest of their safety, in such manner as they may deem advisable, their territory against foreign aggression.

"In exchange for the strong places and territories occupied by the allied armies, Russia consents to a rectification of her frontier with Turkey in Europe. It would commence in the vicinity of Chotyn, follow the line of the mountains, which extend in a southerly direction, and terminate at Lake Sasik. The line (trace) shall be definitively regulated by the general treaty, and the conceded territory would return to the Principalities and to the suzerainty of the Porte.

#### "II. THE DANUBE.

"The freedom of the Danube and of its mouths shall be efficaciously assured by European institutions, in which the contracting Powers shall be equally represented, except the particular positions of the lords of the soil on the banks (*des riverains*), which shall be regulated upon the principles established by the act of the Congress of Vienna as regards the navigation of rivers. Each of the contracting Powers shall have the right to keep one or two small vessels stationed at the mouths of the river, destined to assure the execution of the regulations relative to the freedom of the Danube.

#### "III. NEUTRALISATION OF THE BLACK SEA.

"This sea shall be open to merchant vessels—closed to war navies (*marines militaires*); consequently, no naval military arsenals shall be created or maintained there. The protection of the commercial and maritime interests of all nations shall be assured in the respective ports of the Black Sea by the establishment of institutions conformable to international law, and to the customs sanctioned in such matters. The two Powers which hold the coast engage themselves to maintain only the number of light vessels, of a fixed force, necessary for their coast service. This convention, concluded separately between these two Powers, shall form part as an annex, of the general treaty after receiving the approval of the contracting parties. This separate convention cannot be annulled or modified without

the consent of the signatories of the general treaty. The closing of the Straits will admit the exception applicable to the stationary vessels mentioned in the preceding article.

#### "IV. CHRISTIAN SUBJECTS OF THE PORTE.

"The immunities of the Rayah subjects of the Porte shall be religiously preserved, without infringement on the independence and dignity of the Sultan's crown. As deliberations are taking place between Austria, France, Great Britain, and the Sublime Porte to assure to the Christian subjects of the Sultan their religious and political rights, Russia shall be invited, when peace is made, to associate herself thereto.

#### "V.

"The belligerent Powers reserve to themselves the right which appertains to them of producing in a European interest special conditions over and above the four guarantees."

#### FRANCE.

The Prefect of Police has issued a decree for the re-organisation of the inspectors of the butchers. These inspectors, who were previously appointed by the Prefect on the recommendation of the butchers, will now be appointed directly by the Prefect, and will be increased in number from eight to fifteen.

A very significant indication of the opinions and tendencies of the youth at the University of Paris was given last Saturday morning, on the occasion of a lecture delivered by M. D. Nisard, the newly appointed professor of literature, who undertook to prove that Voltaire was a Christian. The lecturer was formerly a Republican, and one of the editors of the *National*, but when offered his present appointment he said, "I have my opinions; but 15,000 francs a year is a matter of consideration to my family."

"As soon as the drift of the lecture was perceived," says the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*, "there were cries of 'Vive Voltaire!' 'A bas les Soutanes!' M. Nisard remonstrated again and again, with no success. When he said, 'Hear me—you forget that I am a man of study;' it was answered to him, 'You forget the *National*.' When, putting his hand on his heart, he talked of his conscience, the youths cried, 'Yours is a venal conscience; you have sold it to the Government.' After more than a hundred interruptions, and an ineffectual interference by the inspector of schools and the rector of the university, it was found impossible to continue the lecture, and the meeting broke up amidst tremendous confusion."

In the letter of the same correspondent, we read:—"An extraordinary ebullition of public feeling, the particulars of which have not reached me in any reliable form, has taken place to-day at the offices of the Credit Mobilier, in the Place Vendôme. I understand that a crowd of people broke windows and tore up books. It is supposed that they must have been shareholders in some companies, who conceive their interests have been affected by the operations of the Credit Mobilier Society."

The *Jour de l'An* was favoured by fine weather, and the retailers sold largely. The small shops established along the Boulevards, which only opened on the 30th ult., disposed in two days of the greater part of their stocks. The payment of the enormous amount of bills due on the 31st of December was effected more easily than was generally expected, but that of many invoices, presented in the last days of the month, was postponed, to the great inconvenience of traders. The manufacturers whose goods were remarked at the Universal Exhibition, but particularly those who obtained medals, are in a prosperous condition, having greatly extended the circle of their relations, particularly with foreign countries. The fall in the price of grain made now progress during the week. The important arrivals at Havre from the United States and Spain, and at Marseilles from the Mediterranean countries, have baffled the calculations of the farmers, who, reckoning on a scarcity of corn in spring, kept back their produce, which they are now most anxious to part with. Hence the markets are everywhere abundantly supplied, and rates are fast declining.—*Times Paris Correspondent*.

The *Gazette d'Angoumois* says that, among the numerous candidates for the see of Rochelle, now vacant, Prince Lucien Bonaparte, son of the Prince de Canino, appears to have the greatest chance of success.

M. David (d'Angers), the celebrated sculptor and republican, has recently expired. He was employed on a bust of François Arago when he was struck with paralysis.

#### ITALY.

The mission to Naples of M. Brenier, the French Minister, is said to have had a good effect on the royal mind. Some prospect is entertained of an amelioration in the condition of the people; and rumours are abroad to the effect that the King has volunteered to send a contingent to the Crimea, though this is highly improbable, and has perhaps merely been suggested to the national mind by a large levy of troops which has been made. It is also asserted that the Emperor of Austria is about to visit the court of Naples; and

it is certain that preparations are being made for *fetes* of unusual splendour.

A new mouth has opened at the summit of Vesuvius; lava is flowing forth; and the sea is agitated, and emits sulphureous vapour.

A despatch from Vienna has been received by the local Government at Milan, ordering the release from sequestration of the property of the Marquis Pallavicino Trivulzio. It is said that the Imperial decree for that purpose has been granted because these estates had been sequestrated by mistake (*per errore*). The Marquis Pallavicino's property was sequestrated, with that of many other Lombard gentlemen, in the early part of 1853, ostensibly from a belief on the part of Government of his having been implicated in the *emute* of the 6th of February, at which conviction it was pretended it had arrived from secret sources of information, which, of course, were never published to the world, and therefore could not be contradicted.—*Times Turin Correspondent*.

General Della Marmora is suffering severely from a hurt in the leg caused by a fall on board the steamer between Marseilles and Genoa, on his return from the Crimea.

In virtue of the Concordat, the Archbishop of Milan has commenced a crusade against the press, and has requested the Government to give him assistance, which, however, has not been accorded; whereupon the ecclesiastic accuses the temporal power of not maintaining the Concordat. Besides certain newspapers, the wrath of the Archbishop is kindled against the works of Schiller, which have been suppressed. The Government is content to let intellect alone, as long as it does not meddle with politics; but the intolerance of the Church is more catholic.

#### SPAIN.

The Duchess of Roca, mother-in-law of the late Duke of Sotomayor, died the day after him. The funeral of the Duke was suitable to his rank; his corpse had been previously embalmed. Captain General Capaz, of the navy, has just died. D. Francisco Armero y Pendero will succeed him in that dignity.

General O'Donnel is much better. His position has even so materially improved that in a few days he will be quite convalescent. The former Progressista Minister of Marine and Captain-General of the Navy, Dionizio Capaz, died at Madrid. He is to be succeeded by M. Armero, the senior Lieutenant-General. The difference relative to General Ros de Olano is satisfactorily adjusted. General Espartero no longer insists on appointing General Gurrea Director of the Infantry, and continues on the most friendly terms with the Generals of Vicalvaro. The Parliamentary Commission, to which the Tariff Bill was referred for examination, and M. Brull, Minister of Finance, have resolved to meet hereafter every day in the Palace of Congress until the 10th of February, to hear the observations and grievances of the parties affected by the contemplated reforms. A motion is to be brought forward in the Cortes to the effect of calling on them to reject for ever or approve the re-establishment of the duties on articles of consumption. The commission appointed to report on the Credit Mobilier Bill assembled on the 28th of December, under the presidency of M. Santa Cruz, and decided on hearing Messrs. Pereira and Bixio, and a number of competent persons and capitalists of Madrid, before it submitted its opinion to the Cortes. Barcelona is also anxious to possess a Bank of Credit Mobilier. The General Budget Commission meets every night, and is now discussing the estimates of the Finance Department, the last remaining to be examined. In reply to an interpellation by M. Figueras, the Minister of Foreign Affairs declared that the conduct of the French Government, and the measures it had adopted along the frontiers to prevent the Carlists entering Spain, were perfectly conformable to the amicable relations existing between the two countries.—*Letter from Madrid* (Dec. 29th).

#### DENMARK.

The conferences on the Sound dues are postponed *sine die*.

#### SWEDEN.

General Block, Minister of War in Norway, and Commander-in-Chief of the army, has been directed to organise the Norwegian troops in concert with the head of the war department at Stockholm.

#### AUSTRIA.

A piece of audacity on the part of Prince Gortschakoff, the Russian ambassador at Vienna, has given great offence to the Emperor of Austria. The Prince, at a dinner given to Baron Hess, and other Austrian officers of high rank, proposed the health of the Baron, and expressed his heartfelt satisfaction that there was such an excellent understanding between the Russian and Austrian armies; thus hinting that the 'Emperor's' Generals did not coincide with his Ministers. Baron Hess, in his reply, took no notice of this remark; but the Emperor—who, as an absolute monarch, directs his own foreign policy—was very indignant at the implied affront.

The question of the abolition of the antiquated guild system still greatly occupies the Austrian

world, and the idea of free competition, which was first broached by the Minister of Commerce, is beginning to find more favour in the sight of the trading world. The Pest Chamber of Trade has declared itself in favour of free competition in trade, and the Brunn Chamber has followed its example.

The Marquis de Ceva, the Sardinian Minister, has returned to Vienna after a prolonged absence.

#### GREECE.

Brigandage increases in Greece and in the Greek provinces of European Turkey. "On the 10th of December," says the *Times* Constantinople correspondent, "a band of brigands, forty-five in number, visited Chalcis at eight p.m., and entered the house of M. Bondouris, a deputy, situated on the outskirts of the town. The brigands, although the alarm was given, remained for two or three hours in the house, plundered to the extent of 40,000 to 60,000 drachmas, broke all the furniture, and carried off as prisoners the daughter, unmarried, of twenty, a son of ten, and a son-in-law of thirty-one years of age. They played cards in the house with a judge, who was passing the evening there, the stake being the setting on fire of the house; the judge, named Bogos, won; they ill-treated the mother, and tied her to her armchair, preparatory to scalding her with boiling oil, which, however, they gave up. The ransom asked for the three is stated to be 240,000 drachmas. The chief brigand is said to have told his captives that they had nothing to fear, and were lucky in having fallen into the hands of an honourable robber!" Another communication from the East of Europe relates a case of still greater atrocity:—"On the 11th of December, about four in the afternoon, a band of fifteen robbers attacked the village of Steers, belonging to the Demos of Thermopylae. They seized and poured scalding oil over the bodies of the mayor, of his daughter, and of his daughter-in-law. Having stripped him of all he possessed, and plundered the whole village, they then kindled a fire, and threw upon it two women, who had attempted to escape."

#### OBITUARY.

THE MARQUIS OF AILEBURY, K.T., died at his family seat near Marlborough, Wiltshire, on Friday week, in his eighty-third year. He was one of the most ultra of old-fashioned Tories, and a staunch Protestant "as by law established."

MARQUIS TOWNSEND expired a few days since at his villa near Genoa, where he had lived for many years in strict privacy. He is succeeded in the marquise by his cousin, Captain John Townshend, R.N., M.P. for Tamworth.

THE REV. W. WEBB, D.D.—The Mastership of Clare Hall, Cambridge, has become vacant by the death of the Rev. W. Webb, D.D., who held it for the lengthened period of forty years (having been elected in 1815), and, at the time of his decease, was the Senior Master in the University. The rev. gentleman graduated in 1797, and soon afterwards was elected to a Fellowship. In 1815, having then accepted the living of Littleton, from the hands of the society, but being in his year of grace, he was elected to the Mastership on the demise of the Rev. John Tookington, who had held office for the previous thirty-four years. The Master died at his vicarage at Littleton, Cambridgeshire, on Friday week, after a protracted illness, at the ripe age of eighty-one.

#### NAVAL AND MILITARY.

SENTENCE OF "DEATH" UPON A NAVAL OFFICER.—On the 11th of December, a court-martial assembled on board the *Valorous*, in Kamatch Bay, to try Mr. Philip James Dennehy, second master, in charge of the *Lynx* despatch vessel, Lieutenant Commander C. M. Aynley. Captain Buckle was President, and the members comprised some of the ablest captains in the squadron. Mr. Dennehy was charged with disobedience of orders, and with having been absent from his station while the *Lynx* was under fire of the enemy. The circumstances are singular. Mr. Dennehy was second master of the *Hannibal*, but, under the impression that the *Lynx* would furnish him with better opportunities for distinguishing himself and of thus gaining his promotion, he solicited and obtained the appointment. He proved himself a most indefatigable officer, always up at four o'clock in the morning, and never leaving the deck until all the duties of the day had been fully performed. Under his care, the *Lynx* became a pattern of good order, and the discipline was unexceptionable. Some years ago he served on the coast of Africa in the *Dolphin* brigantine, and evinced much commendable gallantry in the rather trying actions with the natives at Lagos. His whole character seems to belie the implication that the conduct for which he was arraigned arose from the want of what is commonly called "pluck;" yet the charges were declared proven, and he has been sentenced to death! The accusation arose out of circumstances at the reduction of Kinburn. Mr. Dennehy unquestionably was unwell—he was temporarily incapacitated from doing his duty, and was not on the deck when his services

were in request. Some coolness had arisen in the mess, and it is possible that the evidence of the medical officer had the effect of giving a bad colour to the affair.—*United Service Gazette*.

HOW SOLDIERS' WIVES ARE TREATED.—We (*Times*) have received two letters from the wives of soldiers, which add to the many proofs already given of neglect in official departments. The writer of one of these letters states that three weeks ago she received a letter from her husband, who belongs to the Turkish Contingent, stating that he had sent her £9, which would be paid to her on application at a house in Pall-mall on mentioning her name and address. She has been there three times, and has received a letter since, but the only answer she can get is, that there must be remittances coming, as there are so many inquiries, and as soon as they get the money it will be paid. It appears (adds our correspondent) that a list of names must be obtained from the Paymaster, and then a letter is sent to the address of the person to whom it is to be paid. This is a new arrangement, but before it was made money was always received without difficulty. Our correspondent concludes by saying that she has written to the Secretary at War, but all is of no use, and she can get no satisfaction. The other letter complains in still more striking terms of official neglect in the payment of money. The writer says that she is the wife of a soldier who is fighting for his country, and that she has three children. Her husband sent her £2 on the 8th of November, but she has not yet received the money. She also says that she has received several letters with three stamps affixed, for one of which she had to pay 1s. 9d., because her husband's name and number were not on it. She is now in the receipt of only 4s. a-week for the support of herself and three children, and has been compelled to make away with all her wearing apparel in consequence of not receiving the money sent to her by her husband. This correspondent has also written to the authorities, but no notice has been taken of the application.

"THE PALMERSTON PACIFICATORS."—The principal engineering foundries in Liverpool have the whole of their hands occupied in the manufacture of immense projectiles and enormous pieces of ordnance. At the Mersey steel and iron works, in addition to the monster wrought-iron gun, to weigh twenty-four tons, and to throw a ball of three-hundred pounds, upwards of five miles, they are constructing two wrought-iron mortars, capable of throwing a shell of thirty-six inches in diameter. At Messrs Fawcett and Preston's, they are executing an order for ninety mortars for thirteen-inch shells, about fifty for sea and forty for land service. At the Vauxhall Foundry immense quantities of eight, ten, and thirteen inch shells have been constructed for some time, upwards of seven thousand tons of which have been made during the past six months; and during the last ten days they have shipped one thousand four hundred tons of shell to Woolwich. This firm are also making several dozens of ten and thirteen inch mortars for land and sea service, and two experimental cast-iron mortars to throw eighteen inch shells, which, it is believed, are to be called the "Palmerston Pacificators." Mr. John Laird is also building fourteen wooden screw gunboats of two hundred and forty tons and sixty-horse power each.

REGIMENTAL QUARTERMASTERS.—A royal warrant was issued at Chatham on Saturday, making certain alterations with respect to the pay, &c., of regimental Quartermasters. All those who have served for an aggregate period of thirty years, of which at least ten years shall have been as Quartermaster, shall have a claim to retire with the honorary rank of Captain, upon the half pay of ten shillings a-day, provided such retirement be recommended by the Secretary of State for War. These regulations are to have a retrospective operation as far back as the commencement of the present war.

COURTS MARTIAL IN THE CHINA SQUADRON.—Several courts-martial have been lately held for the trial of various officers of or belonging to the China squadron. The second-lieutenant of the *Pique* was tried on a charge of drunkenness, and was sentenced to be dismissed his ship, and placed at the bottom of the list of lieutenants. Mr. Thomas Wilson, of the *Rattler*, was tried for riotous and insubordinate behaviour, and for being drunk; he was sentenced to be dismissed her Majesty's service, mulcted of all pay, prize-money, &c., and to be imprisoned in one of her Majesty's gaols. Lieutenant Phipps, of her Majesty's ship *Nankin*, was tried on a charge, preferred against him by Captain the Hon. Keith Stewart, for writing a certain letter, the tone and spirit of which implied insubordination and subversion of discipline. He made no defence, but threw himself on the mercy of the Court, which sentenced him to be severely reprimanded, and admonished to be more cautious in future.

AMERICAN GUN MACHINERY FOR THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT.—About two years ago, the English Government sent out a commission to America, to inquire into the method employed there in the manufacture of small arms. These inquiries have re-

sulted in the ordering of complete sets of machinery in use in American armouries, at a cost of about fifty thousand dollars. An American armourer (Mr. Oramel Clarke) has been employed to go to England to superintend the working of the machinery; and a contract for 25,000 rifles has been entered into.

#### THE ROMANCE OF "THE TIMES."

[Under this head, we reproduce from week to week the most remarkable of those mysterious advertisements which appear every day at the top of the second column of the *Times* front page. Some of the strangest glimpses into the romance of reality that any place presents—not excluding the police-offices—are to be found in that dusky, hieroglyphical, yet most humanly-interesting, corner of the great diurnal. Tragedies, comedies, farces—love, wretchedness, despair—the outpourings of broken hearts, and the supplications of parents to their runaway children—the last struggles of desperate poverty, and the slow wiles of swindling—suggestions of strange plots, as yet in the bud—odd questions and answers flashed to and fro between distant friends—the whole seen obscurely through a dim veil which it is out of our power to raise, and which gives to the fantastical details a sort of supernatural interest;—of such is "the Romance of the *Times*." Materials like these are worthy of being preserved in some other form.]

KEACH.—Yes. Address, as usual, W. H. C. 1, Long-lane. I mean the metaphors.

WHERE ARE YOU? I shall be glad to know. Address E. B., 65, King William-street, City.

W. H.—I cannot any longer bear our constant separation; it worries me sadly, and makes me miserable. Only consider the time that has passed. I have much to confide to you which concerns the happiness of both most deeply. Ever yours.

DO PRAY COMMUNICATE in secret with your still affectionate wife. Tell me where to find you. Address to me, Dolly, post-office, Osnaburgh-street, New-road.

THE ADMIRAL.—Presto.—Je ne veux pas que vous y aller à la Porte St. Martin. Vous la trouverez où je reçois la mienne. Demandez du Domino Noir, ou de la Blonde. J'ai tout commandé.

THE ADMIRAL.—Do not send Presto to the Dominos; it will not answer. Send to Porte St. Martin, to the name you first told me. Alas!

THE ADMIRAL.—J'ai oublié tout-à-fait de l'envoyer. C'est absolument ma faute. On est fâché. N. W. Lundi. A la Porte St. Martin. J'attendrai la votre.

HEBE.—The Hebe of former years is earnestly entreated to send one line to G. F. W. who has not seen her since he went to Palestine.—Morley's Hotel, January 7, 1856.

TO VIOLA.—I have returned. Pray let me hear from you and soon. You know the address.

HOPE.—How can I write without knowing your address.

SARAH De F. AMELIA.—For heaven's sake, return, or write at once to your broken-hearted parents, who will receive you kindly, and have some pity on F. G.

ISABELLA.—If E. M. will communicate with E. L., with a description of her child, age, and date of leaving home, she will be conferring a favour on an earnest friend. May it prove the same! Address E. L., post-office, 24, Cornhill.

AN ANXIOUS WIFE (or widow) and MOTHER, who has reason to fear that the man who was found dead in a railway carriage at Lincoln, on the 17th of August, 1854, was her husband, respectfully begs the person who forwarded to Lincoln £5 for the funeral expenses of the said deceased, to communicate to E. R., Clovelly, Bideford, Devon, such information as may determine whether the said deceased was or was not her husband.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

AN IMPERIAL CHRISTMAS-BOX.—The Emperor Napoleon has sent over to the Queen a very pretty Christmas gift. It is in the form of a lady's album; and the substance of it is an artistic memorial of her Majesty's visit to Paris. The drawings are in water-colour, by the most renowned French masters. "The Queen at Boulogne" is by M. Morel Fatio, and the departure from that port by M. Mozin. M. Chavet contributes to illustrations to the Royal album, "The Ball at Versailles" and "The Imperial Supper." "The Queen's Arrival in Paris" is drawn by M. Guérard. M. Eugene Lami illustrates "The Arrival at St. Cloud." A few other drawings are by artists less known in England. The case which contains these treasures is got up in the most exquisite style, and with all the richness of ornamentation for which French design is renowned. The book, we believe, was produced for the Emperor at a cost of one thousand guineas.—*Athenæum*.

A COMMERCIAL CHRISTMAS-BOX.—Mr. J. P. Heywood, of the firm of A. Heywood, Sons, and Co., extensive bankers, Liverpool, has given the handsome sum of one thousand guineas, to be divided among the clerks and employees of the establishment, as a timely aid to them, as clerks with fixed salaries, during the pressure caused by the war.



**A NEW SUBSTANCE.**—Works for the prosecution of an entirely new branch of industry have been opened by Mr. Chance about five miles from Birmingham—the manufacture of architectural decorations and adjuncts in basalt. The ragnone of the neighbourhood is melted and cast in hot moulds, and cornices, door-heads, and other architectural enrichments are produced, of very lasting quality. When cast in cold moulds, a glassy lava, known as obsidian, is produced—an interesting fact in a geological point of view.—*Builder.*

**THE CASE OF MRS. WOOLER.**—The auditors of the county of Durham, in presenting the accounts the other day, mentioned that the late prosecution in the great Burdon poisoning case had cost the county no less than £512.—*Gateshead Observer.*

**STATE OF TRADE.**—The reports of the trade of the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday contain little of interest, business having scarcely yet resumed its ordinary course after the interruption consequent upon Christmas and the opening of the year. At Manchester, the transactions have been moderate at steady prices, with a fair extent of employment. In the Birmingham iron-market, there is a healthy tone, which contrasts very favourably with the position of the trade at the beginning of 1855. The Nottingham advices describe no alteration. In the woollen districts, the transactions have been of an average character, with a tendency to improvement both in the home and foreign demand. The Irish linen-markets are quiet but firm, confidence being sustained by the comparative smallness of the stocks on hand.—*Times.*

**THE COAL TRADE OF LONDON.**—Statistics of the coal trade of London for the past year, just prepared by Mr. J. R. Scott, show that the total importation into the metropolis was 4,177,953 tons, of which 3,616,868 tons were seaborne, the remaining 1,161,085 having been brought by railway, &c. This total presents a decrease of 198,817 tons, as compared with the great importation of 1854, since, although the quantity by railway exhibits an improvement of 183,876 tons, there is a falling off of 382,693 in that by sea, the latter circumstance being partly attributable to the removal of a number of screw steamers from the trade for more profitable employment as transports under Government.

**CAPTAIN M'GEACHY ALLEYNE**, who was found guilty in December, 1851, of a conspiracy to defraud, chiefly on the evidence of a man named Coyle, who has since been twice tried and convicted of perjury in connexion with that trial, has received her Majesty's "free pardon." But "pardon" for what? For being cruelly calumniated and oppressed by a knave, and for being declared guilty when he was not guilty. Surely the phraseology in these cases should be altered.

**A MURDEROUS CAPTAIN.**—A strange story is told in the *San Francisco Herald* concerning Captain Young, of the schooner *Waterwitch*, who, it is asserted, induced one of the owners of the vessel, Mr. Aines, together with the mate and a Newfoundland dog, to go with him on shore on a barren and uninhabited island in the Gulf of California, and, immediately on landing them, pushed off in his boat, without leaving any food. On being remonstrated with by the other owner, Mr. Elliot, he promised to return, and, taking that gentleman with him, went ashore, leaving Mr. Elliot also on the island, and again pushing off. But Mr. Aines and the mate had escaped on board "a raft" (*sic in origine*), formed out of the skin of the dog, which they killed, and had arrived at the *Waterwitch's* destination before the *Waterwitch* itself. In the meanwhile, an Indian boy on board overheard the captain and a sailor planning to cut his throat; upon which he leapt overboard, and swam to the shore. On arriving at his destination, Captain Young found his would-be victims before him, and was straightway arrested; but what became of Mr. Elliot is not clearly made out. The whole story looks as if it belonged to the same library of romantic fiction as the sea-serpent.

**METEORS.**—The atmospherical phenomena which have been observed for some time past have been again noticed during the past week at Southampton, Sevenoaks, and Blackheath, where brilliant meteors have been seen. The last-named is thus described by a correspondent of the *Times*, Mr. Kimber:—"Nearly due south, a meteor of a most remarkable and brilliant character was observed on Monday evening. The sky was clear overhead, but not bright, and there arose from the horizon, to the height of about ten degrees, black and jagged clouds. A falling star was said to have been first seen, and immediately afterwards the writer had an uninterrupted view of the meteor, which at first seemed to emerge from the dark clouds in a strictly vertical direction, and stretched at least to a height of thirty degrees from the horizon. In form its first appearance was that of a wand, and it gradually tapered at the ends and expanded in the middle, at which time its appearance was most brilliant, its edges distinct and smooth, and it was of such intense whiteness as to seem an opaque body, though bright as the new moon. As the expansion at the centre increased, the ends were bent in contrary directions, and

Hogarth's 'line of beauty' was inscribed in the heavens on a gigantic scale. After a short time the meteor seemed to be broken at regular intervals, and it had then the appearance of dislocated vertebrae. At this time the light was deep yellow, inclined to red, probably a reflection from the sun, not far below the horizon. Its edges at last lost their character, its light became pale, and very gradually it vanished altogether, without the slightest noise of any kind, which was attentively listened for. From its first being noticed to its final disappearance a period of about ten minutes elapsed. All the changes seemed to be produced slowly, and only in its sudden appearance had it at all the character of a gaseous explosion."

**REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.**—An appeal for assistance has been made on the part of a proposed Manchester and Salford Reformatory for Juvenile Criminals. A Ragged and Reformatory School has already been established; but the committee are desirous of erecting new buildings and enlarging their design, for which they will require additional funds. Mr. E. Denison, M.P., intends introducing a bill into Parliament next session to empower justices to establish reformatory schools, and to enable the levying of funds by an annual rate of one penny in the pound on all property rateable to the county rate, with a stipulation that certain expenses should be borne by the Government.

**MONEY WORSHIP AT THE CAPE.**—A gentleman of Jewish appearance, and going by the name of Montefiore, recently arrived at Capetown, and put it about that he was an agent of the great Rothschild, empowered to invest money in whatever way he might consider advantageous. All descriptions of shares straightway rose; the bank, and two or three of the largest houses, gave him unlimited credit; Montefiore races and Montefiore dinners on a magnificent scale were got up; and the gentleman scattered about his own (or other people's) money, and rode in a carriage with four outriders. The whole Cape seemed in a frenzy of admiration; and, at a banquet and ball which was given, one old gentleman kissed the illustrious stranger, and called him his brother, and finally the company carried him on their shoulders round the room, to the tune of "He's a right good fellow." The right good fellow actually proposed to a young lady, but was politely refused; and shortly afterwards he was arrested for debt and forgery. He turned out to be a Jew named Moses Solomon, who had absconded from England.

**ABERDEEN UNIVERSITIES.**—The Senatus of Marischal College and University, Aberdeen, have had a meeting to consider the project of a union of King's and Marischal Colleges, put forth by a committee appointed by a public meeting of the inhabitants, and have adopted a series of resolutions on the subject. They adhere to the opinion which was communicated by them to Lord Aberdeen's Government in January last, in which they intimated that the Senatus would not object to a union of the Universities (though not of the Colleges), if the Government should consent to proceed on that basis. They express an earnest desire to get rid of the constantly recurring agitation on this question, and their readiness to support a bill in Parliament for the union of the two Universities under a proper constitution, as well as for the improvement of the Colleges, with only one professor in each department of the Faculties of Divinity, Law, and Medicine; and they recommend a small commission to "inquire into such details of the University constitution and of other matters as are proper to be included in a bill." It was agreed to address a memorial, founded on the resolutions, to the Lord Advocate. Two of the Professors were in favour of a general measure having reference to all the Scottish Universities, and Principal Dewar, who did not vote, put on record a declaration expressive of his adherence to the recommendations in favour of union, which appeared in the Report of the Commissioners of 1837.

**GUN ACCIDENT.**—A man, named Archibald Macintyre, servant to a Mr. James Macdonald, farmer, at Mucomer, Inverness, has been accidentally shot by that gentleman on the braes of Lochaber. The poor man has left a pregnant wife and a family in great destitution.—Two young gentlemen, cousins, one the son of Mr. Bradshaw Isherwood, of Marple Hall, and the other of the Rev. Charles Bellairs, of Bedworth, in Warwickshire, have met with a severe accident. They were out shooting, and the gun of the former exploded, wounding his right hand and thumb, and inflicting on his cousin a compound fracture of the skull, with escape of brain. Both boys ran home, a distance of a quarter of a mile, and at present are doing well.

**SUICIDE AT SOUTHAMPTON.**—Edward Webb, a clerk at the railway office in the Southampton Docks, has committed suicide by cutting his throat so as very nearly to sever the head. A few days previously he was in conversation with his fellow clerks about the approaching execution of Abraham Baker, and, among various opinions expressed as to the easiest mode of taking life, Webb stated that he thought the act might be more speedily committed by a well sharpened razor than by any other means.

**DRUNKENNESS IN THE CRIMEAN ARMY.**—A despatch from General Codrington, dated Dec. 27th, contains a denial of the general charge of drunkenness brought against the army. From returns in his possession, the Commander-in-Chief asserts that "the number of crimes of drunkenness (and these are many more than the men drunk) is a little above one man in two days per company, estimated at one hundred men." He admits, however, that it is probable some cases escape observation.

## Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, January 12.

### THE SWEDISH DECLARATION.

A CIRCULAR (dated the 18th ult.) has been addressed to all Swedish Envoys by Baron Stjerneld, the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, relating to the recent treaty with the Western Powers. The following are the chief paragraphs:—

"Apprehensions for the future, founded upon remembrances too well known to need repetition, and entertained by the obstacles made by Russia to a satisfactory regulation of the border relations in the northern provinces, were increased still more by the manifestation of ideas of encroachment of that Empire in the East. Under other more favourable circumstances those ideas might obtain a development in the north which would be of a nature to cause as serious embarrassment. France and England having proposed to his Majesty a defensive treaty of alliance destined to assure the integrity of the United Kingdom, the King felt that it was his duty eagerly to accept a guarantee, the utility of which is as patent as it is incontestable. No one can say what eventual contingencies are not hidden in the womb of the future, and in such difficult circumstances as the present it is the duty of every Sovereign to look after the maintenance of the independence and to assure the welfare of the nations entrusted to his care by Providence. It was in this idea that the treaty was concluded on the 20th of last month at Stockholm between the United Kingdoms on the one hand and France and England on the other, the text of which you will find annexed to the present, and which was ratified at Stockholm on the 30th, at London on the 29th, and at Paris on the 23th of the same month.

"You will observe, sir, that the terms of the treaty are too precise to admit of any misinterpretation. The alliance which has just been concluded is a defensive one; it will depend upon Russia to prevent its application, as this would not occur unless caused by an aggression on her part. Let Russia respect our rights—let her cease to inspire just causes of alarm for the maintenance of the balance of power in Europe—and this Treaty will not be of any prejudice to her. You will also observe, Sir, that this Treaty does not imply any change in our actual position—our declaration of neutrality still subsists, and will continue to be adhered to as has hitherto been the case."

The Paris Council of War met yesterday at the Tuilleries. The results are not known. The Council was composed of the Emperor, Prince Jerome Napoleon, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Napoleon, Lord Cowley, Sir Edmund Lyons, Admiral Dundas, Sir Richard Airey, Sir Harry Jones, General La Marmora, Marshal Vaillant, Count Walewski, General Canrobert, General Bosquet, General Niel, General Martimprey, Admiral Hamelin, Admiral Jaurie de la Gravière, and Admiral Pansau.

There are again symptoms of disturbance at Madrid. Some drunken soldiers, occupying the post at the Palace of the Cortes, raised seditious cries. Marshal Espartero re-established order, and the rioters were arrested. On all other points, tranquility remains unbroken.

The report of Lady Ellenborough's death has been contradicted, letters from her having been received, dated Damascus, December 10th.

Dr. Sandwith, one of the gallant defenders of Kara, has reached London after undergoing extraordinary privations on his journey from Kara to Batoum.

H.M.S. *Royal Albert* was nearly lost on her passage from the Crimea to Malta, from a leak in her screw machinery.

## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. B. T.—The letter has been handed to the biographer. No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. "OVER COORDINATE" is again unavocably omitted. It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication. Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

# The Leader.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1856.

## Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—Dr. ARNOLD.

## MR. COBDEN'S PAMPHLET.

WHAT Mr. COBDEN proves, in his pamphlet, is, that the Allies have a difficult work before them. He assumes that Russia has rejected the Austrian proposal: he allows us to assume that the war is not, in principle, an unjust war. His retrospect does not, indeed, include the original grounds of the quarrel. Omitting that discussion, and looking at the future from the present, he argues that, it being impossible effectually to coerce Russia, to persist in attempting such coercion is an unwise and desperate policy. Consequently, he would withdraw from the conflict, without plea or explanation. Certainly, he will agree with us, that this course would be surprising, if not unparalleled. Since statesmanship existed, has any nation ever so far committed itself to a trial of strength as England has committed herself now, and retired unconditionally? For, in strict reason, this is the dilemma. Will Mr. COBDEN say, "not unconditionally?" Then it is a question of terms, and we all accept that basis. Will he say, "Not the conditions proposed by Austria?" But, unless Great Britain is to recall her armaments, without a single concession on the part of Russia, Mr. COBDEN's pamphlet has been written, not only in vain, but idly: it is not only inconclusive,—it is unintelligible.

Mr. COBDEN, however, never writes that which has not a clear meaning. We might say, he never writes that which is not, in many points, conclusive. His pamphlet should have some effect in rationalising popular opinions of Russia. It describes the power of that empire; its self-sustaining internal commerce; its intercourse with Northern Asia and the Continent; and the "impassive fortitude" of its people. The estimate is too high, we think, especially in as far as it repeats TEGOBORSKI's calculations, suppositions as these often are; but the public has been deluded by estimates which err, much more grossly, on the opposite side. Thus, the *Times* has ridiculously disparaged the growth of the Russian population. To argue that because Siberia contains not more inhabitants than London, it cannot supply more soldiers, is to suggest a deduction radically unsound, because the parallel is false. Siberia contains myriads more of men disposable for military objects than London. The province of Bengal is one of the most populous in India, yet not one Bengalee is spared to our army, while the less-thickly peopled Punjab sends many thousands into the ranks.

It is not, however, a question of material facts that we argue with Mr. COBDEN, but a question of policy. And we hope to interpret his opinions fairly, though it is not easy to distil a pamphlet into a paragraph. He argues, then, that, owing to the restrictive commercial system adopted by Russia, she is not, to any important extent, dependent on foreign trade, and therefore cannot, in this respect, be vitally injured by the allied navies. Again, her productions circulate within her own frontier, one province exchanging with another. The continents of Europe and Asia are open to her. Her people are intensely patriotic, and are incited by national and religious feelings to defend the imperial flag. Her finances, indeed, are bad, but, without an adequate revenue, the CZAR commands all the vast resources of his empire.

Russia maintains the defensive with these advantages. The Allies pursue the offensive with positive and serious disadvantages. They have invaded a distant territory; they must carry all their supplies with them. In England there is a paucity of soldiers, and though the Allies enjoy the benefits of an elastic revenue and immense credit, three years of warfare (inevitable if the present policy be continued) must exhaust their exchequers, impair their industry, and render Great Britain secondary to America.

Something of this is true. Mr. COBDEN is a vigorous and suggestive critic. But the moment he supposes himself, for the argument's sake, a responsible minister, he presents a scheme of political operations which is literally astounding. Withdraw the fleets and armies, accept no guarantees from the enemy, league with the German powers against the aggressions of Russia, sign the tripartite treaty now offered by Austria, "binding herself to resist, in future, any attack made by Russia upon Turkey, or any attempt to maintain an exaggerated naval force in the Black Sea!"

That is to say, engage to go to war with Russia, should she adopt again the course which Mr. COBDEN thinks she should now be permitted to develop with impunity. Mr. COBDEN urges the honour of Russia, which forbids her consent to any naval limitation, yet would bind Austria to go to war with her, should she establish an exaggerated naval force in the Black Sea. What is this but treating the CZAR as a ticket of leave man? He has been expelled from the Principalities; Sebastopol has been reduced; but it is useless to take his *parole d'honneur*; his promises are worthless; his diplomatic engagements would be nugatory. However, place the German Powers on guard, that he may be seized upon the first repetition of his offence. Surely, Mr. COBDEN, who relies on arbitration, should have more faith in treaties. Moreover, what circumstance induces him to value an Austrian above a Russian pledge?

Others have exaggerated the exhaustion of Russia. Mr. COBDEN, we believe, exaggerates its vitality. Had not the war been ill-conducted from the beginning, a vital wound would have been inflicted, no doubt, by the allied fleets and armies. A new campaign seems inevitable. English reason has been willing to accept moderate conditions of peace. If they are refused, the issue must again be left to armaments. But we join with Mr. COBDEN in a deep conviction that unless England put forth her energies in earnest, fearlessly and wisely, she will be disgraced by the events of the third campaign—for Russia will not feel her blows.

The pamphlet deserves to be read, if only that it suggests that reflection is better than bluster.

## MORE EASTERN COUNTIES EXPOSURE.

WE have been too fast in our judgment of the Eastern Counties Railway case. On re-consideration, we find that there is really nothing in it to excite the slightest indignation. It perfectly conforms to the rule that has been declared to govern our commerce,—*caveat emptor*—let the buyer beware. It is his business to see that he purchases what he wants—not the seller's, nor the bystander's, nor the State's, but the buyer's only. When the railways were projected, the object was to bring "shares" into the market. So far as that first process goes, the whole object would be attained if anybody could be procured to purchase abstract scrip; and a broker would perhaps be as willing to sell the Barataria and New Atlantis Grand Junction, as the London and Norwich. But we have not yet arrived at that perfection in the division of employments, and shares are at present vulgarly supposed to represent something. It was therefore necessary to have a railway, in order to justify the proposals for shares of the Eastern Counties, East Anglian, Eastern Union, or Norfolk. The shares were sold in the City, and they were bought; and it was the buyer's business to look out. If there had been no railway at all, he could not complain, unless he had examined into the fact. There was a railway, such as it was; and if it was property not likely to last, it was his own fault for buying a share in it. The railway passenger buys a ticket, which represents a journey, and it is his business to see, according to this rule, that he really purchases a journey from London to Norwich and not a journey from London into a broken viaduct, half way between the two cities. If there should be a railway "accident," it is his fault for going on the line. *Caveat emptor*—buyers beware!

The rule decidedly applies to the Eastern Counties. As with stores—if the Eastern Counties Railway Company proposes to buy so much sacks and sheeting, evidently it is not the duty of the sacks and sheeting contractors to furnish articles good or in sufficient quantity, unless the railway company itself sees that the quality and quantity be right. It purchases the services of a superintendent of locomotives, who is also to be a cheapener of traffic working. Well, we see no reason to suppose that Mr. Gooch has not cheapened the traffic working; in fact, he claims a considerable sum of money as per-centage on his having effected that bargain. The Eastern Counties perhaps did not contemplate purchasing also a gentleman who would enter into rival speculations; but, *Caveat emptor*—the shareholders ought to have examined their Gooch before they bought him; and if he is not exactly the article they supposed, it is their own fault. So, again, when they purchased, at an enhanced price, the services of a DAVID WADDINGTON as a chairman, it was their business to see what they wanted. *Caveat emptor*—buyers beware!

The rule has been effectually carried out on the Eastern Counties. We have had several series of disclosures. The Committee of Investigation described the directors as engaging in extraneous speculations, while the servants were engaging in internal speculations, and the property of the original shareholders was only made the stalking-horse for the profit of individuals connected with the line. The very trunk of that railway system, as it were, has been made to support projects that compete with the original design and overlaid it. In brief, it was as if the original capitalists of a project were bound to support the expenses of all the off-shoot projects, while the off-shoot projects consented to share with them the profits. Mr. WADDINGTON then appeared



with his apology; and now come out three witnesses on the other side.

From the chairman and officers of the Company, who goad each other into new statements, we learn the real condition of the whole enterprise. The Committee of Investigation described the Eastern Counties Railway as sacrificed to the projects which the Chairman and Directors had set on foot for getting up an artificially formed port of refuge and amusement at Lowestoft, a competing railway line to Tilbury, steamboat lines to Margate, Ipswich, and Hamburg, dancing saloon at Woolwich, and other enterprises by no means appropriate to railway companies; in fact rather militating against their interests than otherwise. It described the Chairman as winking at defalcation of stores, at the employment of officers in these hostile parasites, and at a general waste of the Company's substance for objects adverse to their interests. Mr. WADDINGTON comes out with an "Answer" which represents the Committee of Investigation as procured and animated by the invidious jealousies of the East Anglian portion of the amalgamated Company, and Mr. BRUCE, Mr. SIMPSON, and others as looking solely to those interests, desiring to sacrifice the remainder of the railway to their own bad purposes. To delude the general body of the shareholders this East Anglian section exaggerated the faults of the railway and its management; they represented the defalcation of stores as causing £10,000 or even £40,000, when £4,338 or £1,338 really represented the figure; and Mr. WADDINGTON himself was the first to detect the defalcation. They represented that only £3,200 was laid out in the renewal of permanent way, when in fact, says Mr. WADDINGTON, although that sum was all laid "out of revenue," the real sum expended in renewal was £22,000; and Mr. FANE, another director, represents his sum as £89,500. The Chairman, therefore, who is accused of sacrificing the original shareholders to extraneous proposals, replies by accusing Mr. BRUCE and his coadjutors of deliberate lying, and lying for the purpose of sacrificing the general interests to other interests. If permanent way had been neglected, says Mr. WADDINGTON, for dividends, the fault was that of Mr. PETER ASHCROFT, who had been the resident engineer before the present man.

On this, out comes Mr. ASHCROFT with a statement that throws fresh darkness on the whole management of the line. He had, he said, represented the necessity of renewals for years before he resigned in December, 1854; he had recommended to the directors the machinery by which the work of renewal could have been done expeditiously, which was necessary even then; he had left materials, machinery, and capital, when he resigned his office, for the purpose of carrying out the renewals. He also states the sum at £22,000, like Mr. WADDINGTON; and we have no clue to explain how it is that Mr. DIRECTOR FANE found his £89,000 to expend.

Then comes Mr. BRUCE with a rejoinder, proving that some of Mr. WADDINGTON's replies obtain their effect by substituting one subject for another; explaining, for instance, the state of the stores in stock, as a mode of refuting the statement that £10,000 had been wasted in the purchase of stores. It is impossible to characterise the style of answer imputed to Mr. WADDINGTON, without using terms equally counter to law and good breeding. But Mr. BRUCE affirms that other projects lurked in the mind of the Chairman, and that he would have made the Shareholders purchasers of a coal mine, to make coke for the company, if he had not been prevented.

While Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Directors, and Shareholders are thus describing each other's proceedings, Colonel WYKE of the Royal Engineers is sent down to look at the railway itself between London and Norwich. He finds that it is literally crumbling to pieces; the structure having been, as Mr. ASHCROFT says, of a temporary character, in great part composed of timber, and much rotted by the atmosphere, and the surface water in the swampy land of the Eastern Counties. Such, then, is the result of our most civilised commercial enterprise: the very thing which it was the object of the enterprise to form, the railway, is falling to pieces; while the Directors, according to their own account, have been deluding the Shareholders, each other, and the public.

It is common enough to say, as a proof that the commercial arrangements of civilisation have broken down, that society at one time or other was "nearly reduced to a state of barter." A state of barter, however, could not be so barbarous as this ultimate result of commerce. When men barter, at all events they exchange the things that they reciprocally desire. The savages in Southern Africa, who are so shy that they dare not meet strangers, and who leave the goods that they desire to exchange at a distance, while they stand aloof and witness the exchange, are really not so barbarous in their mode of conducting commerce as we are. In that case, also, the things reciprocally desired are actually exchanged. Our refinement has induced commercial men to look upon the trade itself as existing for its own sake, or rather the instruments of trade as constituting the be-all and end-all. The railway exists for the sake of its dividends to them, not for the sake of the travelling that it affords to the community. The community may travel or be smashed, as the case may be, so long as dividends accrue. Dividends themselves are but secondary considerations, so long as the "shares" are saleable; that is the first point. The railway, the substantial thing in which the projectors profess to deal, ceases to be a real object,—threatens to be no reality at all. Thus trade, refined to excess, overreaches itself, and instead of supplying commodities, or facilities, ends in dealing only with the false representatives of commodities or facilities.

But this is a state of things which cannot continue. As soon as the less cultivated public discovers that shares do not mean dividends, that dividends do not mean railways, that railways do not mean a real power of transit, but only a chance of journey or death, the railway itself will be disused, the dividends will cease, the shares will be waste paper, and for want of reality in the basis, the whole commerce will sink to a mockery and a bankruptcy. This is not the conclusion of theoretical speculation, but threatens to be a veritable and gigantic fact in the Eastern Counties. As in the case of Nankin cotton, a wholesale adulteration threatens to extinguish the trade itself.

#### MR. JOSIAH WILKINSON.

WE have recently expressed our sense of the sturdy independence manifested by the new Metropolitan Board of Works in their election of a man of their own order as their president, over the heads of the noblemen, the baronets, the members of Parliament, and the crowd of more or less wealthy aspirants, who came forward to solicit their suffrages for the much-coveted appointment. And we are gratified to learn that the same English spirit of self-reliance is likely to assert itself again in their choice of that hardly less important functionary, the secretary, or, to use their own

homely appellation, the "clerk" to the Board. Disregarding the prestige of eminent names, and the doubtful recommendation of brilliantly-signed testimonials, they are understood to have singled out, once again, a member of their own body, hitherto unknown to the public, by birth and connexion essentially a middle-class man, to co-operate with their president, as penman and legal adviser, in the conduct of the varied and important public business confided to their care. Just as Mr. THWAITES, obscure a month ago, has been lifted by their honourable choice to sudden eminence, just so does Mr. WILKINSON, distinguished by their preference as "clerk," bid fair to rank high among those whose difficult task it will be to shape out and guide, we trust to a good end, the municipal destinies of the metropolis. Watching, as we do, with deep interest, the progress of this new administration, which we do not hesitate to describe as one of the most democratic innovations of our time, we have taken great pains to collect information as to the antecedents of the gentleman who is likely to be its principal officer; and we propose to lay the result of our inquiries succinctly before our readers.

Mr. JOSIAH WILKINSON, like Mr. THWAITES, has interested himself in the local affairs of his neighbourhood; and we may mention, among other things, that the zealous devotion of his time and funds towards the establishment and conduct of an association to diffuse scientific and literary information, in the populous suburb of Islington, have met with grateful and handsome recognition at the hands of his fellow-parishioners. For many years Mr. WILKINSON practised as a solicitor, in partnership with Mr. COBBOLD, the Member of Parliament for Ipswich; and the course of his practice happened to be such as to bring under his professional attention the details of some of the largest engineering enterprises of the day—no unfit preparation for such an office as that of secretary to a Board of Works. His industry and talent as a solicitor were crowned with so much success, that, in 1847, he was enabled to retire from business. But, naturally active and energetic, he soon after went to the bar, and engaged in an extensive parliamentary and arbitration practice; which again, by a fortunate coincidence, happened to lie chiefly in affairs connected with engineering works and claims.

Our information as to the high legal attainments and acumen which he displayed during this period of his career, in the conduct of cases of great intricacy and magnitude, is derived from two of the brightest luminaries of the English bar; whose testimonials, we believe—if testimonials were necessary to Mr. WILKINSON—would be given in the warmest terms. At the late election, Mr. WILKINSON was invited by forty-eight out of fifty members of the St. Pancras vestry, to represent that important district at the new Central Board—a mark of confidence which had double value, as it was conferred on him spontaneously, without any canvass having been undertaken either by him or in his behalf. At the first meeting of the new assembly he was unexpectedly invited to act as honorary secretary; and the remarkable ability with which, unprepared as he was for the emergency, he acquitted himself of his difficult duty—suggesting the order of the business, preparing on the spur of the moment the various minutes and documents required, and answering questions as they arose—won him the confidence of his colleagues; and, coupled with Mr. NICHOLAY's judicious conduct in the chair, secured for the assembly, at the outset of its career, the approbation of the press and the public.

Such, so far as our inquiries have extended,

are the antecedents of Mr. JOSIAH WILKINSON. We record them without comment, to weigh for what they are worth with the members of the Metropolitan Board of Works; whose judgment should, we conceive, in a matter of this kind, be left to its own free exercise, unbiased by any recommendations or counsels from the press. On the other hand, we feel it our duty, as faithful guardians of the public interest, to declare our conviction that the London rate-payers would view with dissatisfaction the re-appointment of Mr. WOOLRYCH, the secretary to the defunct Sewers Commission—or, as he has been wittily termed, “the relic of the late lamented Mr. JEBB.” In that ill-organised and most unpopular Commission party spirit was carried to such lengths, and was so radiated (if we may use the expression) from the chairman to his superior officers, that a clean sweep is indispensable, in order that the new Board may avoid the fatal inheritance of traditional discord and intrigue.

This, if we are rightly informed, is the view of that large majority of the new assembly who advocate the collective rights of the metropolis against the interests of the City clique. The latter will probably vote for Mr. WOOLRYCH, with the object of weakening Mr. THWAITES, by placing at his side, instead of a gentleman with whom he can cordially co-operate, one who does not enjoy his confidence. But forewarned is forearmed. The premature revelations of the City policy by Mr. Deputy PEACOCK, in his celebrated nomination speech, have put the “Metropolitans” on the alert. The City members, “giants” though they be, and sent expressly to “tackle” the Metropolitans, and “put them in a fix,” will find in the common sense of their opponents a quiet power with which Gog and Magog cannot cope. That common sense will, if we judge it aright, lead the assembly to prefer public to merely personal considerations; to reject, as an obvious element of discord, the City candidate, who mourns the fall of JEBB; and to place beside the chairman, in conformity with his known preference, a secretary with whom he can cordially co-operate in the discharge of his onerous public duties.

#### THE BALTIC BLOCKADE.

THE relations of civilised States are, no doubt, too complex to allow of war being carried on, without embarrassment, in the presence of powerful neutrals. On the high seas, especially, it is impossible to destroy the commerce of one nation, without impeding that of another. Great Britain and France have had to deal, in the Baltic, with peculiar difficulties. To cut up the Russian trade, it was necessary to enforce the Right of Search. To enforce the Right of Search, it was necessary to risk, not only the hostility of Prussia, but the consequences of an agreement between the American and German Powers. The doctrine that free ships make free goods, which was never brought into operation on a large scale until now, exonerates Russia, almost completely, from the effects of the Baltic blockade, the principal expense of which is borne by England. The Russian exports from the North flow out little less freely in time of war than in time of peace. Prussia is benefited by the carrying trade; the Russian merchants in our own country and in others, pursue their transactions nearly as usual; and so cognisant is the British Government of these facts, that it advertises, officially, for tenders of Russian tallow.

The blockade is, then, an illusion; a costly, and virtually, an ineffective process, exhausting to ourselves, innocuous to the enemy. Within a week we have even heard of armed Russian vessels flitting across the Baltic, but this was

an exceptional case. What is most important is the astonishing truth that English money supplies Russia with means for carrying on the war. Meanwhile, England spends £10,000,000 each season, without seriously crippling the commerce of the nation with which she is at war.

We have admitted the perplexities of the question. But Russia will never succumb, except under an overwhelming pressure. Is the risk we escape by relaxing the severity of our maritime code, equal to the injury we sustain by allowing Russia to trade by proxy with our merchants, while she fights our armies, and defies our fleets? With the exception of her Black Sea trade, we have stopped none of her outlets,—for it cannot be said that the Pacific is blockaded, though it would be highly useful to close rigorously the mouths of the Amoor. Northwards and eastwards, Russia trades over an immense extent of territory, with China, and the populations of central Asia—even with our own subjects in the Indian peninsula. On the continent, her commerce is uninterrupted; internally, supposing her entire circumference blockaded, her vast surface, and the variety of her territories give her means of industrial vitality. Thus, it is difficult, by any process, to exhaust Russia; but what success can be expected, when two navies cannot guard the Baltic, and when from exaggerated caution, and deference to neutrals, the exchange between St. Petersburg and London remains uninfluenced by the war?

It is a serious question whether the Right of Search should not be enforced in the Baltic this coming season. The Minister, we are told, dare not enforce it. The American difficulty and the Prussian difficulty arrest him. But the former does not seem to us so portentous as the governmental apologists believe. The latter is an obstacle that ought not to stand in the way. It is not an infraction of any maritime law that is required, but the application of the undoubted Rights of Belligerents. If we are to pay millions for a blockade, which if successful, would not drain Russia to the extent that it drains us, we must have results. It is the first maxim of warfare, to strike the enemy with the utmost violence, in the most vulnerable place. Otherwise peace is delayed, by indulgences granted to the hostile power, and by concessions made to neutrals. If Sir EDMUND LYONS commands this year in the Baltic, the nation may be disposed to treat him as they treated BYNG should he return without having struck decisive blows. But even naval and military successes lose half their value, if, while we destroy fortresses and armaments, a weak policy leaves Russia facilities for retrieving every loss.

#### THE DISASTER AT KARS.

WHEN Parliament meets, Ministers will undergo a peremptory cross-examination on the subject of the disaster at Kars. Was General WILLIAMS sacrificed, with the Turkish army, to the apathy of the English Government, or to the jealousies of the French? It is stated that he repeatedly begged for assistance from the Administration at home, and from the Porte. Had the English Minister no discretion? Was the Porte helpless? Or did Lord PANMURE neglect his duty? It is a serious matter. If any influence is to be exerted, favourable to the Russian arms, let us understand it, that we may not be disappointed should Russia obtain, for every defeat in Europe, an equivalent in Asia.

The story, as far as the English Government is concerned, is a plain one. Two years ago, the Turkish army, garrisoning the frontier town of Kars, was re-organised, after its defeat at Soobaltan, by GUYON, one of the best

cavalry generals in Europe. It held a good position, until the fatuity of the Pachas, the neglect of the Porte, and the wretched influences that destroyed GUYON's authority, brought the campaign to a ridiculous result. Last year, the lost ground was partially retrieved, and though GUYON had been sacrificed, Kars was occupied and fortified by a force virtually commanded by General WILLIAMS. From the first it was seen that the Russians were determined to push on the campaign. We published, many months ago, details of their strength, and indicated the danger of Kars, and of the Anatolian army.

What was done? Nothing. The Turkish Contingent was not sent to Asia Minor. The transport service was never employed to carry supplies to the coast by the open highways, and every means of carriage into the interior was totally disregarded. Why? There was an English staff at Kars, corresponding with our War Office. At our War Office, therefore, the facts were known. Apparently, too, Ministers were not indifferent to the fate of the Anatolian army. When the Russians were defeated, the Minister's organs gave expression to their cordial joy. But they were again warned that, unless relieved, Kars must sink into the enemy's hands. Not a movement took place. Clearly, some sinister influence was at work. The Disraelite faction, desiring to fix the stigma on Lord PANMURE, describes the defence of Kars as a purely English affair. The French Government evinced no interest in the variations of the Asiatic campaign. Not a single Frenchman was there. Our contemporaries do not understand that this is an illustration of that secret power which prohibited the British Government from marching troops into Asia Minor. The Russians, in the spring, will threaten Erzeroum. How far are they to advance, unresisted? Or, if OMAR PACHA occupies that city, is he to be abandoned until he is starved into surrender?

#### “GEORGE BATES, ESQ.”

DOES fiction contain any incident excelling the scene in which GEORGE BATES is standing, with pen in hand, hesitating to sign the proposal for a policy of insurance, with PALMER waiting for his signature, and COOK—the very man who died in convulsions on his own bed—crying, “Sign away, GEORGE!” The proposal for the assurance, says the story current, this week, was filled up at PALMER's house; COOK was there, and a horrible shadow of recollection appears to have fallen upon each one of the three men. BATES, the stable-keeper, hesitated: perhaps he knew that other persons' lives had been “insured” by PALMER, and that they had died. It is reported that he told the detective officer who went down to examine him, that if he had signed the paper he should have got £500 from PALMER, and he should then have gone abroad, and “not given him a chance.” We do not know how far these stories are true, but there, at all events, is the paper got up by PALMER, signed by BATES, countersigned by COOK, and intended for a purpose now sufficiently intelligible.

In fact, it is difficult to know where suspicions can first have commenced. Mr. THOMAS PRATT, of Queen-street, Mayfair, who acted at the time as solicitor for PALMER, now publicly explains in these words:—“With respect to the insurance of BATES's life, it is on record that I stated to the secretary of the Solicitors' and General Office, that I knew nothing of the party intending to insure, and left it to the office to make their own inquiries.” Why did the solicitor act thus cautiously and so far against his own client? He had, of course, a reason, and it appears in his own explanation.

“When the information was required by the



secretary as to the object of the insurance, I forwarded copy of his communication to William Palmer, who had instructed me, and suggested an explanation should be given of Bates' mode of living, if he kept his carriage, &c., what property he had; and on my hearing that the object was 'to carry out a matter of business,' I wrote and objected to the explanation being unsatisfactory, and subsequently, on inquiry in another quarter, determined to let the matter drop, having called on the secretary of the office with a view of telling him so, but found him out of town."

Here was a machinery concentrated on "GEORGE BATES, Esq.," and, according to the tale, even BATES himself was not altogether unprepared to try his luck at diamond cut diamond, in a game where his own life was at stake!

There is one point in cases of this kind that does not appear to have attracted attention. According to the story, PALMER had enjoyed an extraordinary facility in obtaining money upon persons who were insured that they might die. The case of WAINWRIGHT had pointed the warning long ago, and yet we now find the same plan repeated, apparently upon a scale as much larger as the facilities afforded by the insurance offices are greater. Thus the offices hold out a premium upon the poisoning of innocent persons. According to the plan, as it is now exposed, any man who is in want of cash within a reasonable time, can insure the life of some unsuspecting person, may give his bill at three or four months, and thus raise the money for the purpose; and with a very moderate amount of skill and tact in the use of a proper kind of pill, may realise the sum assured at a given date. It would perhaps make all safe if he were to renew his bill once or twice, so as to allow a sufficient period between the insurance and the death, and keep some kind of plausibility to the transaction. How far has this practice been carried out?

We really should regret to libel any class in the community; but no libel that we could compose would tear off the veil of decency that covers such transactions, as it is torn even to tatters, by the excess of vice in the community itself. It is no literary libeller who has brought out the complicated spelter case in the matter of DAVIDSON and GORDON; and remember, DAVIDSON and GORDON can scarcely be said to have stood alone in that case. They could not have accomplished what they did, but for the extraordinary facilities they have found. It was not a literary libeller that tore down the front wall of the Bank of STRAHAN, PAUL, and BATES. The commercial world has been exposing itself; and in this instance it appears as the accomplice even of a PALMER. How is this? To what extent has it really gone?

The importance of the question will be felt when we observe, that it does not relate only to morals or to human life, but to a question of money. If we were thinking only of saving "GEORGE BATES, Esq.," no very great interest might be felt in the question. Possibly few of our commercial readers would turn pale if the question related only to a MARY or a WALTER PALMER. But let us observe that it affects a much wider circle than the immediate family and connexions of the poisoner. If cases occur in which assurances are effected in this fashion, and moneys are paid out of the capital of insurance offices, what effect is it likely to have upon the resources of the insuring community, in meeting liabilities of longer date upon lives that reach their termination in a more natural manner? We have some reason to doubt whether the rates of insurance offices are not already calculated so as to shave very closely to the principle of stability. Now, if sums are anticipated in payments upon the prompt death of a COOK here, or a somebody else there, how much will remain to pay the insurances upon the lives of persons who are suffered to reach the final goal in natural fashion? What pro-

portion exists, may we ask, of insurances at short dates? The question is enough to make some of us hope that our families may be among the earlier claimants upon the insurance offices.

#### THE PERSIANS AT HERAT.

HERAT is not the key of India, in the sense that the key opens the gate; but it is one of the most important positions in Central Asia. Its possession brings Persia actually within the frontiers of Afghanistan—a fact that may startle those who deride the idea of a Russian advance towards the boundaries of our Indian empire. Great Britain has lodged herself within the Eastern limits, Russia, virtually, within the Western limits, of Afghanistan—so that, absolutely, the enemy with whom we are contending in the Crimea and the Baltic, has forced his authority upon a city of the old Durani Empire!

Herat lies in the most frequented route from Persia to India. The path of commerce is usually the path of armies. It is easy, no doubt, to enumerate the physical difficulties that would intervene between the conqueror of Herat and the invader of India. But the historical fact remains, that Russia, which has advanced her actual territory a thousand miles in the direction of Teheran, has pushed her moral influence as far as Herat, which has succumbed, after several times resisting the Persians. The siege of the city in 1838 was described by certain India House politicians as a contemptible burlesque. It was, however, a great and exciting struggle. The Persians, with forty thousand men, and seventy guns, sat during nine months before the citadel, and three times planted their standard in the breach. A British officer, however, was then the Khan's auxiliary, as a British officer should have been in the conflict which has recently ended. The siege failed; the Persians retired, ravaging the valley; but since that day, Russia has worked incessantly to bring the SHAH once more into the field, and to revive her influence in Central Asia.

It has been demonstrated, historically, that Russia has long entertained designs against our Oriental empire. It has been demonstrated, also, that she has selected Persia as the basis of those designs. Another track has, indeed, been marked, through Khiva, up the Oxus, to Bokhara and Balk, and through the Hindu Koosh to Kabul; but for this the subjugation of Turkistan, of Kharism and Bokhara, would be necessary. These countries are in a rude social condition, and generally poor. So also, however, are the countries between the Caspian and Herat.

The enemies of our Indian ascendancy have invariably aimed at it through Persia, and Persia through Herat. NAPOLEON, before Russia and Persia were one, diplomatically, incited the SHAH to assail Turkey, and to subdue the Khanates that lay to the east of his dominions. When, after disastrous wars with Russia, Persia submitted to her powerful neighbour, she became, not her ally only, but her slave; and it is impossible to doubt that she has been bribed as well as coerced into her present attitude.

In our opinion, therefore, the capture of Herat by the Persians is a serious event, which destroys British prestige throughout the vast regions of Central Asia. In the eyes of some, that prestige is valueless, but we think it is at least worth a naval expedition in the Persian Gulf.

#### MORE PENSION LIST VAGARIES.

NOT more than a month ago, we drew the attention of our readers to the misfortunes of Mr. GUY, the writer of elementary works, who, though in deep want, and with real claims upon the public

purse, was unable to obtain a pension. A case of equal hardship, and exhibiting in as glaring a light the inadequate amount set aside from the public revenue for the relief of men of intellect, has come before the public in the course of the present week. Mr. JOSEPH HAYDN, the author of the popular *Dictionary of Dates*—a work of great use to those who, without aiming at scholarship, are desirous to get at facts by a ready process—has been offered a pension of £25 per annum! Seriously, he has received that degrading offer—the pay of an upper servant, for a life spent in useful literary labours. And the fault is not with those who administer the national funds; the fault consists in screwing those funds down to so beggarly an amount that (after subtracting what is given as a mere matter of honour to men who do not need pecuniary assistance) almost the only effect of the bounty is to insult rather than to relieve.

Mr. HAYDN, like his fellow-labourer to whom we have already referred, has been reduced to most painful extremities—the cause in his case being a stroke of paralysis on last Easter Tuesday, at which time he was employed by the Admiralty in bringing up the records of the Secretary of State's letters. Lord PALMERSTON, according to the statement of a correspondent of the *Times*, has had the generosity to send him £100; "while Mr. DISRAELI, and a few others, added 'to this sum enough to purchase for Mrs. HAYDN and family a shop for the sale of stationery and newspapers (No. 13, Crawley-street, Oakley-square.)'"

If in the neighbourhood of Oakley-square there be any who have benefited by the *Dictionary of Dates*, or who have respect for the struggles of ill-requited intellectual labour, we are sure they will regard it as a duty to do the best they can for that stationer's shop, established under these touching circumstances. But the public at large will have to look to another matter—the removal for the future of these blots upon our national generosity.

**THE SOUND DUES.**—The Council of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce have received a letter from the Earl of Clarendon stating that Government had the subject of the abolition of the Sound Dues under its consideration. The annual meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of Liverpool will be held early in February, when it is expected some definite information on the matter will be laid before the members.

**THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS** held a meeting on Monday, when several matters of routine were discussed. Mr. Bazalgette, the temporary engineer-in-chief of the Board, delivered in a report with respect to the management of the sewers, for which he had engaged thirty-three assistants. Considerable discussion ensued on the subject of a device for the official seal. The committee appointed to consider this matter recommended a design which should include the armorial bearings of the four metropolitan counties, Middlesex, Surrey, Essex, and Kent; but it appeared that Surrey and Essex have no armorial bearings; and a design by Mr. Wyon having been submitted to the Board, the question was sent back to the committee for reconsideration. A motion fixing the clerk's salary at £800 a year was agreed to; and some discussion arose with reference to the future place of meeting of the Board, Burlington House being required by Government after the 21st. The meeting adjourned till Monday.

**THE OMNIBUS ENTENTE CORDIALE.**—The first instalment of the London omnibus connexion was passed over to the French Compagnie Générale on Monday morning, and was duly worked by them through the day. This was the Holloway line, belonging to Mr. Wilson. It consisted of fifty omnibuses with five hundred horses, employing about one hundred and eighty men, all of whom are now in the service of the Anglo-French General Omnibus Company of London. The "times," which are a special privilege, religiously guarded by the omnibus fraternity, and considered to be of equal value with the vehicles, &c., were also made over as part of the bargain. A similar transfer was executed on Monday by Mr. Leonard Willing, the oldest omnibus proprietor in London, who, with others, conveyed to the same parties the Stoke Newington and Kingsland and Dalston line, comprising twenty-two omnibuses, two hundred horses, and seventy employees. The French company's intended system of "correspondence" (by which a person getting into an omnibus in any part of London may be conveyed at one charge to any point of destination, by the mutual exchange of passengers) does not come into action until their new carriages are built, and their purchases of the other London "times" are completed.

**FIRE.**—A fire burst out on Sunday on the premises occupied by the London Parcels Delivery Company, which consumed a portion of the building, but did not destroy any of the parcels.

## Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

THE New Year generally introduces new periodicals. Few last, because few are commenced with sufficient capital, sufficient courage, or sufficient knowledge of the public wants. What capital or courage may back the *Idler* we know not; but at any rate it has the advantage of being unlike other magazines. It only costs sixpence, and for sixpence gives sixty-four pages of light and varied matter. JAMES HANNAY, SHIRLEY BROOKS, BLANCHARD JERROLD, J. C. JEAFFRESON, and E. F. BLANCHARD, contribute stories and sketches. There is a large public for such light matter, and the *Idler* has a fair chance of finding acceptance.

The *Westminster Review* opens with an article on HEINE, which will be acceptable to many, if only on account of the biographical sketch of that strange and charming writer; that, and the article on "Athenian Comedy," are the only literary papers in the number, the claims of literature being, however, amply considered in the valuable quarterly surveys of Theology, Philosophy, Politics, Education, History, Biography, and Belles Lettres, which occupy the last hundred pages of the *Review*. The "Athenian Comedy" is a pleasant, scholarly glance at a very wide and very fascinating subject. The writer compares the licence of personality which distinguished ARISTOPHANES with the rigorous exclusion of politics and personality which cripples our comedy:—"An Athenian playwright would have revelled in impersonations of CHATHAM's gout and flannels; of PITT's crane-neck; of SHERIDAN's ruby nose; and FOX's shrill tones and bushy eyebrows. The modern dramatist, who should reproduce them, would not cause even the injudicious to laugh, and would be rewarded for his attempt by a general sibilation. We leave to GILRAY and LEECH this department of the 'comic business' of politics; and, although our pantomimes occasionally indulge themselves in allusions to the Commissioners of Sewers and Sabbath Observance Bills, such matters are excluded from comedy and even from farce." The reason, as MACAULAY would say, is obvious. We will not imitate the historian, and prove what is obvious by three columns of demonstration; enough if we refer to the fact that the Theatre is under censorship, and the censor will not allow the most harmless political allusion to pass: e.g., in the "Game of Speculation," Sir HARRY LESTER had to say, "The Palmerstonian question is not understood, sir,"—surely a very innocent remark! Yet even that remark was interdicted! What chance, then, is there of CHATHAM's flannels or SHERIDAN's ruby nose finding a place upon the stage? The audience of ARISTOPHANES delighted in personalities. We must not

Measure an Athenian theatre in the season by any modern comparisons. San Carlo, La Scala, and Her Majesty's Theatre in the Haymarket, must hide their diminished heads beside the theatre of the Athenian Iacchus. Four thousand spectators would have "no room for standing, misnamed standing-room," in the most capacious European playhouse. Twenty thousand spectators were easily accommodated in the huge oval of the Temple of Dionysius. And how discordant were the ingredients of this enormous mass. There was little respect for persons in these assemblages. Cleon would find himself seated beside his enemy, the sausage-seller; an elbow of stone divided Socrates from Anytus; and the noisiest brawler of the Pnyx might be comfortably niched beside the decorous and respectable Nicias. The government and the opposition occupied indiscriminate benches. There was the party clamorous for war because it supplied the Arsenal at the Piræus with hemp, timber, and salt pork, mixed up with the party for peace, because it could no longer vend its figs and honey in the markets of Thebes and Megara. The high-temple party, which denounced the philosophers as atheists, was cheek by jowl with the free-thinking party, which derided the priests as impostors; and there were the young men, who cried up Euripides as the father of wisdom, close packed with the old men, who abominated him as the father of lies.

For every class of the spectators, and to nearly every individual among them, the Old Comedy yielded entertainment and excitement. The demagogues applauded the caricature of Nicias and Demosthenes, the aristocrats hailed with equal applause the portraiture of Cleon in "the Knights." The Sophists were "shown up" in Socrates, pale, unshaven, meagre, and meditative; the mathematicians in Meton; the soldiers, full of strange oaths, and crested like game-cocks, in Lamachus. And, like the modern Parisians, the Athenians laughed heartily at themselves, as represented in the old dotard Demus, the victim of every adviser who would take the trouble to pick his pockets.

Quite otherwise was it when MENANDER wrote—

The audience at a representation of Menander's comedies differed in nearly every respect from that which had applauded Aristophanes and his rivals. In the course of half a century, the political life of Athens had become nearly extinct, at least political sentiments were banished irrevocably from the stage. It was safe, so long as the *Demus* was in good spirits, and kept the purse of all the islands, to hold up to ridicule the great party-leaders: but it was ill-jesting at the expense of a Macedonian prefect, or at statesmen whom the prefect would at any moment accommodate with a company of the guard. The freedom of the theatre and of the assembly of the people had indeed expired together: and if Demosthenes had been forced by Antipater's agent to drink poison, a cup of hemlock was the least a poet could expect, who should presume to handle Antipater as Eupolis had treated Pericles.

Turning from literature to politics (and noting by the way some amusing sketches of "Lions and Lion Hunting," condensed from GERARD's works), we find the *Westminster* discussing "Russia and the Allies," "The House of Savoy," the "Limited Liability Act," and "Military Education." The last-named paper we have read, and can earnestly recommend: it is full of knowledge and excellently argued. The subject is in all men's mouths just

now. Even civilians must see that there is something extremely urgent in the question, when an old officer so distinguished as Sir JOHN BURGYNES can give evidence like this:—

"The educational qualification for an officer entering the army might be very slight; he would have them write decently in English from dictation; would allow the first four rules of arithmetic, but not fractions, which is going a little too far; logarithms too hard, simple equations quite beyond them to acquire; algebra has little to do with military duties;" being asked whether it would not be very mischievous that, "while the education of the whole country is progressing, a certain stimulus should not be given to that of officers? Answers, "No: does not see the great advantage of education pushed to a great extent: thinks that where studies are pushed too far it very often leads to idleness and neglect and dissipation, as much as where they are not."

The *British Quarterly* opens with a good review of PRESCOTT's "Philip the Second," which is followed by an excellent analysis of ARAGO's work on "Thunderstorms,"—useful even to those who have ARAGO, and very interesting to those who have not. The article on "Mormonism" is rather late in the field. The "Songs of the Dramatists" furnishes a rambling, but very agreeable, critical paper. The "Influences of Romanism and Protestantism on Civilisation" are elaborately compared; but if the lion were the painter would the man hold so superb a position? To our tastes the finest paper in the whole number is that on BROWNING's "Men and Women," one of the best and kindest criticisms we have read for many a day. The writer deals too vaguely with BROWNING's faults, although he indicates them; and the impression left by his article is thus somewhat too favourable as an estimate; but the spirit is noble, and the admiration springs from keen delight in excellence, not from idle panegyric. It is so seldom that critics have the rare courage of admiration. Fulsome and foolish praise is abundant enough—especially on the works of noodles; but enthusiasm for what is really fine is rare in periodical criticism. The writers always try to preserve an air of superiority, which every sentence of their criticism betrays to be the veriest pretence. How well thought and well expressed is the following passage on Browning's poetical disposition:—

Whether, indeed, the precise combination of qualities exhibited by him was not such as to show that if he had so chosen from the first, he could have been quite as remarkable and effective as a prose-writer as he had become as a writer of verse, might have been left an open question. It was enough that, having chosen to become a poet, he had justified the choice. He had done so amply. If the special distinction between the thinker or prose-writer, usually so called, and the poet consists in the fact that the one in the main thinks *directly*, and expresses his meaning straightforward in words and propositions, conveying it with the least delay to the understanding, while the other thinks *representatively*, and expresses his meaning rather in images, phantasies, fictitious trains of scene and incident, beautiful in themselves, and only involving the meaning in their beauty, then Mr. Browning had proved his title to be called a poet. Imagination was visibly the faculty he kept most in exercise. Perhaps he had not begun with this as the predominant habit of his mind, but he had by practice given it the predominance, and brought his whole mind round to it. He had trained himself, as it were, never to think in the purely logical manner, but always through the imagination. Instead of making it the business of his life, as a writer, to propound opinions, to investigate facts, to take up deep vexed questions and speculate on them directly to an issue, or to pen every now and then a rousing pamphlet on the "present crisis," he had prescribed it to himself as his proper work to invent stories—to imagine men and women, either singly or in groups, endowed with such and such characters and surrounded with such and such circumstances; and to make these ideal beings of his brain act, speak, think, and sing, so that it should almost seem in the memory afterwards that they had really existed.

Alluding to the probability of BROWNING's faults being made the text of renewed assault on the part of critics, the writer says:—

But surely, also, there are other critics who, making it their practice to be thankful for what is good in a writer, and to regard what is less agreeable in him if it is persisted in, as something probably inseparable from the good by the very structure of his genius, and therefore to be accepted with it, and even, perhaps, on further acquaintance, to be liked more than at first, will rather welcome the present work as simply an additional gift to the public from a writer who has already of his own free will presented it with so much that is excellent, and will, accordingly, regard it as an opportunity for revising their previous judgment about him, so as to see whether it is to stand, or whether it may not be modified in his favour.

We have so very little literature of the quality which BROWNING furnishes, that the utmost encouragement should be given to it; not by deifying BROWNING's faults, but by elucidating, as this writer has done, his remarkable excellencies.

The *National Review* opens with an article on EDWARD GIBBON; obviously by the brilliant writer who wrote the "Edinburgh Reviewers;" and, although he has not this time produced so remarkable an essay—although he has not reached the "height of his high argument,"—he has written an article which none who begin will leave unfinished. Its value does not consist in an estimate or presentation of GIBBON, but in suggestions and side-glances. Here is one on education. After describing the desultory reading of boys, he says—

Besides this sort of education, which some boys will voluntarily and naturally give themselves, there needs, of course, another and more rigorous kind, which must be impressed upon them from without. The terrible difficulty of early life—the use of pastors and masters—really is, that they compel boys to a distinct mastery of that which they do not wish to learn. There is nothing to be said for a preceptor who is not dry. Mr. Carlyle describes with bitter satire the fate of one of his heroes who was obliged to acquire whole systems of information in which he, the hero, saw no use, and which he kept as far as might be in a vacant corner of his mind. And this is the very point—dry language, tedious mathematics, a thumbed grammar, a detested slate, form gradually an interior separate



intellect, exact in its information, rigid in its requirements, disciplined in its exercises. The two grow together, the early natural fancy touching the far extremities of the universe, lightly playing with the scheme of all things; the precise, compacted memory slowly accumulating special facts, exact habits, clear and painful conceptions. At last, as it were in a moment, the cloud breaks up, the division sweeps away; we find that in fact these exercises which puzzled us, these languages which we hated, these details which we despised, are the instruments of true thought, are the very keys and openings, the exclusive access to the knowledge which we loved.

The review of HELPS's "Spanish Conquest" is not up to the subject. The "Life and Writings of Dr. YOUNG" is little more than an analysis of PEACOCK's book. But the article which will probably excite by far the greatest attention is that on "Atheism," by an unmistakable hand. Direct grappling with the position of Atheism there is little or none; but the tone is lofty and liberal, and much of the article will be considered as alarmingly so. For instance:—

When people assume that an atheist must "live without God in the world," they assume what is fatal to their own Theism. We deeply believe that by far the greater part of all human trust does not arise, as is commonly supposed, from our seeking God, but from God's seeking us; and this, too, without any clear admission or confession on our part of His influence upon us;—that a great deal of it is trust in goodness rather than in any personal God, and might possibly be held along with intellectual disbelief of His personal existence; in short, that if you could blot out on the one hand all acts of self-confessed trust in God,—if you could blot out all private and public worship, properly so called, spurious or genuine, all churches, all creeds, all pharisaism, and all pure conscious devotion; and if, on the other hand, you might leave all this, and blot out of the earth all unconscious and unconfessed acts of surrender to the divine influence in the heart,—all that might possibly be connected with purely intellectual Atheism,—you would blot out more of true "religion," more of that which "binds together" human society, more of God's true agency on the earth, in the latter case than in the former. Of course we do not mean that the truest unconscious trust in God's influence is not generally to be found in the same minds which, at other times, also consciously confess Him; but only this, that if in every life, whether of faith or doubt, you numbered up the acts of trust which are not rendered to God personally, but to the instincts and impulses which so often represent Him in the heart, and which might continue to represent Him even when the dark cloud of conscious doubt of His existence had intervened, you would probably have numbered far more acts which really originate in divine influence than could possibly be found animated by a real conscious personal belief.

Again, the wisdom of this sentence, bold as it will appear, deserves especial attention: "There is no teaching more mischievous in its effects than that which makes human belief in God the first regenerating power in human society, and God Himself the second; which makes God's blessing a consequence of man's confession, and which therefore limits that blessing to the narrow bounds of the confession." This, again, is very noteworthy:—

It is clear that Atheism necessarily tends relatively to reduce the influence and independence of the higher intellectual and moral faculties (even where the real existence of these is not disputed), as compared with that of the senses, social impulses, and those energies which tell upon the world. And this it does both involuntarily and unconsciously, by eradicating from the imagination that haunting image of the divine character which most stimulates these faculties into action, and also voluntarily and consciously, because the atheist must in consistency believe that the theists' worship gives them an unfair prominence. Holding that the human mind is in direct contact with no other mind, but is the latest and highest consummation of forces pushing upwards from a lower stage of existence, the atheist cannot regard his own highest mental states—conscience, affection, and so forth—as having any independent illumination of their own,—as skylights opened to let in upon human nature an infinite dawn from above,—but rather as a polished arch or dome completing and reflecting the whole edifice beneath. To Him the highest point of human culture is the absolutely highest point in the mental universe; mere non-existence roofs us in beyond; and of course, therefore, the highest faculties we possess must derive their sole validity and their sole meaning from the lower nature to which they add the finishing touch. No doubt he will admit that new power and insight is gained, the higher self-culture is pushed; but the new power is not power from beyond human nature, the new insight is not insight into a region above it; it is only the stronger grasp of a more practised hand, the keener vision of a more comprehensive survey. Hence, by dismissing the faith in God, Atheism necessarily props up the higher faculties of man completely and solely on the lower organisation, and denies them any independent spring. Moreover, the atheist is led to justify and fortify himself in this natural result of his modes of thought by assuming, as Feuerbach does, that the object of man's worship, if there be any, ought to be a perfect man, and that the theist's God is not even strictly a magnified shadow of humanity, but only of a special and arbitrarily selected portion of humanity.

FEUERBACH's answer to this would be, "I desire Humanity to be regarded as the highest ideal." There are several passages in this paper we had marked for extract and discussion; but our limits absolutely forbid further extension. We must convey in a sentence our admiration of the masterly criticism of THACKERAY as moralist and artist: and so dismiss the *National* for the present.

#### INTRODUCTION TO GENESIS.

*Introduction to the Book of Genesis, with a Commentary on the Opening Portion.* From the German of Dr. Von Bohlen. Edited by James Heywood, M.P. In 2 vols. London: John Chapman.

WHAT is the office of the Biblical critic in relation to the Old Testament? There are various answers to this question.

Extreme orthodoxy says, that since there is irrefragable external evidence for the Divine origin and direct verbal inspiration of the Hebrew Scriptures, the critic has simply to interpret the meaning of the text: any record which is in contradiction with the text, if not reconcilable by hypothesis, is to be pronounced false; but if an undeniable fact turns out to be in contradiction with the text, the received interpretation is to be reconsidered and altered so as to agree with the undeniable fact. According to this theory the critic has not to examine the Hebrew writings in order to ascertain their origin, but

having beforehand settled their origin, he has to explain everything so as to make it accord with this premiss. He is not an inquirer, but an advocate. He has not to weigh evidence in order to arrive at a conclusion, but having arrived at a conclusion, he has to make it the standard by which he accepts or rejects evidence. His criticism is a deductive process, which has for its axiom, The Hebrew writings are from beginning to end revealed truth. And it is only while orthodoxy strictly adheres to this point of view that it is on safe and consistent ground; for if we are to examine a book for proof—though it be only confirmatory proof—of its origin, we must have some criteria to judge it by, and we can only obtain such criteria by borrowing them from pure historical criticism, an ally that must be ultimately incompatible with rigid orthodoxy. As long as we rely implicitly on testimony as evidence of a man's health, we have no need to examine the indications of health in his person; but the moment we feel the testimony insufficient, we must have recourse to physiological criteria, which are common to every human organism.

The first symptom that orthodoxy begins to feel the pressure of historical criticism is shown in an extension of the "accommodation" theory. As the Deity, it is said, in speaking to human beings, must use human language, and consequently anthropomorphic expressions, such as the "eye of God," the "arm of God," the "laughter and jealousy of God," which we have no difficulty in understanding figuratively, so he must adapt the form of His revelations to the degree of culture, which belongs to men at the period in which His revelations are made. He teaches them as a father teaches his children, by adapting the information he gives to their narrow stock of ideas. It was in this way that the candid Dr. Pye Smith explained the narratives of the Creation and the Deluge, to the great scandal of his Evangelical brethren. It is easy to see that this system of interpretation is very elastic, and that it may soon amount to little more than a theological formula for the history of human development. The relation between the theory of accommodation and that of development is analogous to the relation between the doctrine that the brain is the organ of mind, and the doctrine that mind is the function of the brain; in both cases the manifestation of mind is determined by the conditions of the body. And thus the "accommodation" theory necessarily leads to what may be called a mitigated orthodoxy or a mild heterodoxy, which allows the presence of mythical and legendary elements in the Hebrew records, and renounces the idea that they are from beginning to end infallible, but still regards them as the medium of a special revelation, as the shell that held a kernel of peculiarly Divine truth, by which a monotheistic faith was preserved, and the way prepared for the Christian dispensation. They who hold this theory believe that the Hebrew nation was the grandest instrument of Providence—the Hebrew writings, the vehicle of superhuman truth; but they do not believe in talking serpents and talking asses, or in divine commands to butcher men wholesale; and they hold that, to identify a belief in such fables with the faith of a Christian, is as dangerous to reverence as it would be to fix an absurd popinjay on the divine symbol of the Cross. The laws of Moses are something more to them than the laws of Menu—a Hebrew prophet something more than a religious and patriotic poet; a chapter of Isaiah something more than the Hymn of Cleanthes. They do not feel about the Hebrew temple and the Hebrew worship as they feel about a temple of Isis or the Eleusinian mysteries: the history of Israel is a sacred precinct to them—they take their shoes from off their feet, for it is holy ground. To them, therefore, the Old Testament is still an exceptional book; they only use historical criticism as a winnowing fan to carry away all demands on their belief, which are not strictly involved in their acceptance of Christianity as a special revelation.

Extreme heterodoxy, on the contrary, holds no conviction that removes the Hebrew scriptures from the common category of early national records, which are a combination of myth and legend, gradually clarifying at their later stages into genuine history. It enters on the examination of the Old Testament with as perfect a freedom from pre-suppositions, as unreserved a submission to the guidance of historical criticism, as if it were examining the Vedas or the Zendavesta, or the fragments of Manetho and Sanchoniathon. On thus looking at the Hebrew records by the "light of common day," without the lamp of faith, heterodoxy finds in them no evidence of anything exceptionally divine, but sees in them simply the history and literature of a barbarous tribe that gradually rose from fetishism to a ferocious polytheism, offering human sacrifices, and ultimately, through the guidance of their best men, and contact with more civilised nations, to Jehovistic monotheism. It finds in them, as in other early records, a mythical cosmogony, an impossible chronology, and extravagant marvels tending to flatter national vanity, or to aggrandise a priesthood; it finds discrepant conceptions of Deity in documents attributed to one and the same source; it finds legislative enactments, springing from an advanced period, stamped with the sanction of primeval names, or of mythical crises in the national history; in short, it not only finds in the Hebrew writings nothing which cannot be accounted for on grounds purely human, but it finds them of a character which it would be monstrous to attribute to any other than a human origin.

These are results arrived at in the present day by very grave and competent scholars, and whatever opinion may be held concerning them, no educated person can dispense with some knowledge of the evidence on which they are based. There are few books, at least in English, better adapted to give such knowledge in a concise form than the *Introduction to Genesis* by Von Bohlen, named at the head of our article. Von Bohlen's was a thoroughly earnest and reverent mind, and orthodox believers need never be shocked by his manner, if they are inevitably pained by his matter. To this admirable qualification he added that of immense learning, especially in the department of Hindoo literature, his fame having been first won by a work on "Ancient India." We have only to regret that Mr. Heywood did not heighten the value of his disinterested labour in editing the *Introduction to Genesis*, by publishing it in a cheaper and more portable form.

The first volume is chiefly occupied with considerations on the origin and character of the Pentateuch, or five books of Moses, generally, considerations which embrace the course of Hebrew history until after the Captivity, or transplantation to Babylon. Every important particular is discussed clearly and briefly, but not scantily, and the reader, though he may not accept Von

Bohlen's conclusions, is placed in an excellent position for pursuing the investigation by a closer study of the Scriptures themselves. Mr. Heywood has added in an appendix to this volume the valuable remarks of Von Bohlen on the Week, extracted from his *Ancient India*.

The second volume contains a commentary on the opening portion of Genesis. Von Bohlen wrote a commentary on the whole book, but the translation is limited to the first ten chapters which comprise the important narratives of the Creation, the Fall, the Flood, and the Dispersion of mankind. Mr. Heywood has enriched this volume by notes and by additional remarks on the flood; he has also inserted some interesting extracts on this subject and on the Paradise myth from Professor Tuck's Commentary on Genesis.

Instead of quoting from the more argumentative and critical portion of the volumes, which would not be effective in the cursory reading usually given to newspapers, we will borrow from them an admirable Hebrew myth which has arisen since the Christian era. We cannot agree with Von Bohlen that it is "true to the spirit of antiquity." The tolerance it breathes is unknown to the Books of the Law:—

Poocoe is said to have actually found this chapter in a manuscript at Cairo. The Talmud too is supposed to have been acquainted with it. Saadi alludes to it in his "Bustan" (see *Asiat. Journ.* iii. 315). Taylor cites it in the middle of the seventeenth century, and it has now become generally known through the means of Franklin [by whom it was communicated to Lord Kames], who quotes it in his "Sketches" as a parable against intolerance. It runs as follows:—

1. Now it came to pass that Abraham sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. 2. And behold a man drew nigh from the wilderness, and he was bowed down with age, and his white beard hung down even to his girdle, and he leant upon his staff. 3. And when Abraham saw him he stood up, and ran to meet him from the door of his tent, and said, 4. Friend, come in; water shall be brought thee to wash thy feet, and thou shalt eat and tarry the night, and on the morrow thou mayest go on thy way. 5. But the wayfaring man answered and said, Let me, I pray thee, remain under the tree. 6. And Abraham pressed him sore; then he turned and went into the tent. 7. And Abraham set before him cream and milk and cake, and they eat and were satisfied. 8. And when Abraham saw that the man blessed not God, he said to him, Wherefore dost thou not honour the Almighty, the Creator of the heavens and the earth? 9. And the man answered, I worship not thy God, neither do I call upon his name; for I have made gods for myself that dwell in my house, and hear me when I call upon them. 10. Then the wrath of Abraham was kindled against the man, and he stood up and fell upon him, and drove him forth into the wilderness. 11. And God cried, Abraham! Abraham! and Abraham answered, Here am I. 12. And God said, where is the stranger that was with thee? 13. Then answered Abraham and said, Lord, he would not reverence thee nor call upon thy name, and therefore have I driven him from before my face into the wilderness. 14. And the Lord said unto Abraham, Have I borne with the man these hundred and ninety-eight years, and given him food and raiment although he has rebelled against me, and canst thou not bear with him one night? 15. And Abraham said, Let not the wrath of my Lord be kindled against his servant, behold I have sinned! forgive me. 16. And Abraham stood up and went forth into the wilderness, and cried and sought the man, and found him and led him back into his tent, and dealt kindly by him, and the next morning he let him go in peace.

#### NAPOLEON EN DESHABILLE.

*The Confidential Correspondence of Napoleon Bonaparte with his brother Joseph, sometime King of Spain: selected and translated, with explanatory notes, from the "Mémoires du Roi Joseph."* In two volumes. John Murray.

Doubt and dismay may have well filled the breasts of all thorough going Bonapartists, when first this correspondence was made public. Only "the stump of Dagon" is now left to their idol, his image is broken in pieces. Nothing is so perilous to the reputation of a hero as the publication of his private memoirs and familiar correspondence.

It is impossible, indeed, to deny that Napoleon's letters, whether addressed to his brother or to his other generals, tend greatly to confirm his military reputation, which few persons were disposed to gainsay. But to his character as a man they are most damaging; of his pretensions as a genuine hero they are utterly subversive. Only on one occasion does he manifest any real tenderness of feeling, and even that may be partly attributable to wounded vanity. Owing to certain information received from Junot he had conceived suspicions of Josephine's constancy, during his campaign in Egypt, and in bitterness of spirit he thus wrote to Joseph from Cairo:—

I have much domestic distress. Your friendship is very dear to me. To become a misanthrope I have only to lose it, and find that you betray me. That every different feeling towards the same person should be united in one heart is very painful. Let me have on my arrival a villa near Paris or in Burgundy. I intend to shut myself up there for the winter. I am tired of human nature. I want solitude and isolation. Greatness fatigues me: feeling is dried up. At twenty-nine glory has become flat. I have exhausted everything. I have no refuge but pure selfishness. I shall retain my house, and let no one else occupy it. I have not more than enough to live on. Adieu, my only friend. I have never been unjust to you, as you must admit, though I may have wished to be so. You understand me. Love to your wife and Jérôme.

It is not very clear how he could have wished to be unjust without being so; and if he failed contrary to his own desire, he had little right to make a merit of that failure. And when it is remembered that he was scarcely "off with the old love, before he was on with the new;"—that within the space of three months he had broken off a long engagement with Mlle. Clary and wedded the buxom widow of Count Alexandre Beauharnais,—it may be fairly doubted if "blighted affection" was the sole, or even principal cause, of his poignant distress. The workings of un-atisfied ambition had long since created a morbid and dreary state of mind, which lent a jaundiced hue to every object of life. He had thus expressed himself in a letter dated Paris, the 12th of August, 1795:—

This town is always the same, always in the pursuit of pleasure, devoted to women, to the theatres, balls, the public walks, and the artists' studios. As for me, little attached to life, contemplating it without much solicitude, constantly in the state of mind in which one is in on the day before a battle, feeling that, while death is always amongst us to put an end to all, anxiety is folly,—everything joins to make me defy fortune and fate; in time I shall not get out of the way when a carriage comes. I sometimes wonder at my own state of mind. It is the result of what I have seen and what I have risked.

It is also worthy of remark that on the very day on which Napoleon announced his divorce to the imperial family, he wrote a long, cool, business letter to Berthier respecting the movements of the different *corps d'armée* at that time in Spain. His personal feelings, indeed, seldom interfered with either pleasure or business. On one occasion after complaining that no courier had arrived for two days, he goes on to say:—

Letters from Rome mention that Salicetti's house has been undermined, that his children are killed, and he himself slightly hurt. How horrible! I am impatiently waiting for details. I shot to-day at Montefontaine from one o'clock till four; I killed twenty hares. The house looked to me even more frightful and uninhabited than it did four years ago.

Charming juxtaposition. It is pleasant to know that anxiety for the life of a devoted partisan did not affect the accuracy of his aim. If so unconcerned when the welfare of his friends was at stake, it can be little matter for wonder that he spoke with self-complacency, if not exultation, of the terrible severity he exercised against the former members of the Convention, when the excitement produced by the infernal machine had placed them at his absolute disposal. It is known that he then transported to Cayenne, without any sort of trial, above a hundred leading men of the republican party, although he well knew that it was a royalist conspiracy which had so nearly proved fatal to him. In a similar spirit he writes to Joseph from Valladolid:—

You must hang at Madrid a score of the worst characters. To-morrow I intend to have hanged here seven notorious for their excesses. They have been secretly denounced to me by respectable people whom their existence disturbed, and who will recover their spirits when they are got rid of. If Madrid is not delivered from at least one hundred of these firebrands, you will be able to do nothing. Out of this one hundred, hang or shoot twelve or fifteen, and send the rest to France to the galleys. I had no peace in France, I could not restore confidence to the respectable portion of the community, until I had arrested two hundred firebrand assassins of September, and sent them to the colonies. From that time the spirit of the capital changed as if by the waving of a wand.

Whatever the Septembrisers might have been, the Spanish "firebrands" were guilty of no worse offence than a futile attempt to shake off the Gallic yoke. We need not pause to consider what manner of men were the "respectable people" whose spirits were disturbed by the existence of their patriotic fellow-countrymen. It was not Napoleon's custom, however, to call a spade, a spade. His duplicity amounted to effrontery, and he unblushingly urges his more conscientious brother, again and again, to disguise facts and give a distorted version of events. Of this innumerable instances might be adduced—a few will suffice:—

As soon as reports of armaments reach Naples, announce that all will be settled; and when you hear of the commencement of hostilities, say that I am acting in concert with England to compel Prussia to restore Hanover; as Lord Lauderdale is still in Paris, this will not appear improbable.

Pay attention to your newspapers, and have articles written from which it may be inferred that the Spanish people is subdued and submits itself.

M. le General Clarke,—I wish you to write to the King of Spain to impress upon him that nothing can be more contrary to the rules of war than to publish the strength of his army, either in orders of the day, in proclamations, or in the newspapers; that when he has occasion to speak of his strength, he ought to render it formidable by exaggeration, doubling or trebling his numbers; and that, on the other hand, when he mentions the strength of the enemy, he should diminish it by one-half or one-third.

The corollary of this proposition poor Joseph learned to illustrate when extenuating his defeat at Vittoria, he stated the enemy's forces to be as two to one. The French were certainly out-numbered, but their artillery was greatly superior—Marshal Marmont's army consisted of at least 65,000 fighting men, supported by 150 guns; while Wellington had only 60,000 English and Portuguese, with no more than 90 guns; but there were also 18,000 Spaniards under his command—efficient auxiliaries, however despicable by themselves.

The present Emperor of the French has declared that his Uncle was in favour of the liberty of the Press, and generally well disposed towards an enlightened liberalism. Perchance he measured his predecessor by his own standard; and the two following extracts will show that the liberal views of the great Napoleon were the prototype of his own. The Emperor expresses himself with much bitterness regarding a newspaper called the *Courrier Espagnol*, written in French, the object of which he cannot understand:—

This paper, he says, indulges in literary discussions on Paris, and is the Don Quixote of Spain against France. If it were written in Spanish, and for the Spaniards, this would be only absurd; but in French it is also improper. France, engaged as she is in so cruel a war in Spain, ought at least to hope to regenerate and liberalise (!) that country. They must be ill disposed who, at such a time as this, publish in French that Spain was well governed under Charles III., and give a pompous eulogy of a man like Jovellanos, who is unknown in Europe, and who is our bitter, unrelenting enemy. This newspaper must be suppressed, or published in Spanish. I have ordered all copies of it to be stopped.

The next extract is unique as the profession of faith of a "liberal" monarch:—

Now the enemies of the monarchical profession are literary men and philosophers. You know that I am myself not fond of them, since I have destroyed them wherever I could.

And what will be thought of the honour of a great ruler who can talk thus coolly of repudiating, though only for one year, a national debt?

On looking at M. Roderer's report, I am convinced that you have immense resources. When you have to pay twenty-six millions on account of a national debt, there are at once twenty-six millions to be got by merely stopping payment for one year.

We know not which most to admire, the unscrupulous dishonesty of such advice, or the shortsightedness which could suggest it. The non-payment of a national debt must inevitably entail ruin upon thousands of families whose sole income was thence derived, upon the tradespeople who supplied these families, upon the manufacturers who supplied the tradespeople, and finally upon the artisans who worked for the manufacturers.

There is one very significant letter which must not be passed over in silence. Napoleon affected to be idolised by his subjects in general, and not



only by his soldiers, and yet, even in 1806, we find him writing in this wise:—

I have told you already, and I repeat it, that you place too much confidence in the Neapolitans. I say this especially with respect to your kitchen and the guards of your person. Lest you should be poisoned or assassinated, I make a point that you keep your French cooks, that you have your table attended to by your own servants, and that your household be so arranged that you may be always guarded by Frenchmen. You have not been sufficiently acquainted with my private life to know how much, even in France, I have always kept myself under the guard of my most trusty and oldest soldiers.

Eleven years before this he was ready to "defy fortune and fate." Evidently the time had not yet come when he would not get out of the way when a carriage passed. It is strange that such precautions should be taken by men whose existences are the peculiar care of Providence. In our own time we have seen one who sets at naught the arrow that dieth by night, tremble to encounter the pestilence that walketh at noonday. It is easier to brave the pistol that has been fired in vain, than the fever which spares neither sovereign nor suter.

We have already alluded to Napoleon's advice to Joseph to garble his published reports. It is notorious that such was his own practice in drawing up his bulletins. But even in his private letters to his brother he was guilty of the same duplicity, for the truth was not in him. It is matter of history how a dense mass of Russians crowded together on a frozen lake after the rout of Austerlitz,—how the French batteries, by the Emperor's own orders, played first upon the ice along the shore, and how then the fire was turned upon the kneeling supplicants until the last man was killed or drowned. Here follows the imperial version of the massacre:—

A whole column of the enemy threw itself into a lake, and the greater part of them were drowned. I fancy that I still hear the cries of these wretches, whom it was impossible to save.

It is almost laughable to observe the mean, unforgiving tone in which he speaks of Sir Sidney Smith:—

The less attention you pay to Sir Sidney Smith, the less you speak of him, the better.

Sir Sidney Smith is a man whom it is easy to deceive. I have often laid traps for him, and he has always fallen into them; when he has suffered three or four times, he will get tired.

Never talk about Sir Sidney Smith; all that he wants is to make a noise, and the more you talk about him the more he will intrigue.

Sidney Smith's answer is impertinent, like everything else that proceeds from him.

Sir Sidney's impertinence was the successful defence of St. Jean d'Acre. But how pitiful are such expressions of impotent resentment on the part of one who boasted that he would find in Spain the Pillars of Hercules, but not the limits of his power. In another letter he points to the goal he had in view in endeavouring to secure Sicily to Joseph—a goal well nigh attained by his nephew, our trusty ally:—

You will have the finest kingdom in the world, and I hope that, by setting to work earnestly to form a good army and fleet, you will assist me to become master of the Mediterranean, which is the chief and perpetual aim of my policy.

There is also another point upon which uncle and nephew are probably agreed:—

If any of the great people or others are troublesome send them to France and say that you do it by my order. No half-measures, no weakness. I intend my blood to reign in Naples as long as it does in France: the kingdom of Naples is necessary to me.

Joseph was likewise necessary to him, in the same manner and for the same reason as Louis. He was useful as the temporary occupant of a vacant throne until the imperial conquests could be consolidated and the government centralised at Paris. As an hereditary and constitutional sovereign, Joseph would have been adored by his subjects. He would not have been contemptible even as a Field Marshal—in a constitutional sort of way. But his whole life was sacrificed as the lieutenant of an imperious and relentless conqueror, who only valued men as fitting instruments for his selfish purposes. At times, indeed, Joseph's gentle spirit was stung to the quick by the slights he received, and more than once he demanded to be freed from a burden he felt himself incapable of supporting with honour.

I will be such a king, he writes, as the brother and the friend of your Majesty ought to be, or I will return to Mortefontaine, where I ask for no happiness, but to live without humiliation, and to die with a good conscience. Only a fool remains in a false position. In forty years of life I have learnt only what I knew almost at the beginning, that all is vanity, except a good conscience and self-esteem. . . . Sir, my misery is as much as I can bear; what I deserve and what I expect from you is consolation and encouragement—without them the burden becomes intolerable; I must slip from under it before it crushes me. If there is on earth a man whom you esteem or love more than you do me, I ought not to be King of Spain, and my happiness requires me to cease to be so. I write to you my whole thoughts, for I will not deceive you or myself. I do not choose to have an adroante with you; as soon as that becomes necessary, I retire. During my whole life I shall be your best, perhaps, your only friend. I will not remain King of Spain unless you can think this of me. Many illusions have left me; I cling a little to that of your friendship: necessary as it is to my happiness, I ought not to continue to risk losing it by playing the part of a dupe.

To such remonstrances and supplications Napoleon seldom deigned to make any reply. Occasionally, indeed, he condescends to say that he is aware of his brother's affection, which is merited by his own feelings of friendship. But for the most part he treats Joseph as a petulant child, or woman, whose poutings are to be smiled away or simply disregarded. Two extracts, however, will show the difference between the two men better than any general remarks we might offer. Joseph writes thus demonstratively, on the 13th August, 1806:—

I remain here till your Majesty's birthday, on which I wish you joy. I hope that you may receive with some little pleasure this expression of my affection. The glorious Emperor will never replace to me the Napoleon whom I so much loved, and whom I hope to find again, as I knew him twenty years ago, if we are to meet, in the Elysian Fields.

The great man responds to this burst of feeling with the un-sympathising haughtiness of a demi-god:—

My Brother,—I have received your letter of the 13th of August. I am sorry that you think you will find your brother again only in the Elysian Fields. It is natural that at forty he should not feel towards you as he did at twelve; but his feelings towards you have greater truth and strength; his friendship has the features of his mind.

We now take leave of this record of the littleness of a great man; tendering, our grateful thanks to the translator for his very judicious notes, and for the excellent style in which he has executed his tedious task.

#### SIR EDWARD BELCHER.

*The Last of the Arctic Voyages: Being a Narrative of the Expedition in H.M.S. Assistance, under the Command of Sir E. Belcher, C.B., in Search of Sir John Franklin, 2 vols.* Reeve.

SIR Edward Belcher writes with a perpetual consciousness of his own importance. His narrative of Arctic research, which possesses real and permanent value, is continually interrupted by the suggestions of self-love. We are told how the Captain of the Assistance pondered over his responsibilities—how he mused—how he formed unalterable resolves—and, in italicised lines, how his measures were "attended with success." His diagrams are not designed for scientific use; they are simply monuments of the C.B.'s naval services. Even the playbills of the Arctic theatre are reproduced, with "the distinguished patronage of Sir Edward Belcher," in conspicuous type. Thus, an interesting book has been spoiled. The Voyage of the Assistance was an historical event. Throughout that voyage Sir Edward acted well; he took care of his crew; he was zealous, courageous, patient; he preserved discipline while exercising little severity; he left his ship, but brought home her company; and has not, perhaps, received his proper reward. All this he has explained; but, told in a style less puffy, the story would have been more readable and more impressive.

The Assistance, the Resolute, the Pioneer, the Intrepid, and the North Star left England in April, 1852, to prosecute the search for Sir John Franklin. By the 16th of June they had reached the western entrance of the Waigat Channel, the main passage into the Arctic interior; and here the flocks were found, rough and brittle, and stretching everywhere over the sea. Passing on by Upernivik, the excitement of the voyage commenced, for they were in the very wilderness; and here Sir Edward pauses, with immitable naïveté, to talk of his family motto; of himself—"the naval chief;"—proceeding: "in charity with all men, not perfect myself, and willing to overlook all faults in others, provided they do not, when I tell them of it, still continue to tread upon my corns."

However imperfect, Sir Edward confesses to few faults. When he acted upon his own resolves, he is certain that nothing could have been more judicious; when he acted on advice he is "far from believing that he did right."

The expedition slowly forced its way through the frozen fields, sawing and blasting the ice, and experiencing perils and disasters at short intervals. Among the phenomena remarked was that of the red snow, noticed by Sir John Ross; not a pale or dirty red, but deep lake and crimson, lying in spots on the exquisitely white surface. Sir Edward Belcher imagines that these tinted patches may be caused by the birds here, which feed on fish of a brilliant scarlet colour. The vessels were not delayed in their course, except where the flocks lay across the way, or at points at which former expeditions had left their records. Sailing through the spaces marked as *land* in the popular charts, they reached the head of Queen's Channel, and here an unexpected obstacle presented itself. Ten miles of thick-ribbed ice extended in front, barring their progress westwards; but northwards the sea was still open. But the season had closed; a little harbour was near, the Admiralty instructions were positive, and the Assistance was moored behind a spit of land, not to stir thence until the spring of 1853. Yet, suggests Sir Edward, ordinary persons by no means knew that the proper moment had arrived for making preparations:—

What impressed me with the conviction that the present occurrence was decisive against further motion, I cannot conceive, nor did I wait to inquire.

Intuition, clearly. Three days afterwards, Sir Edward began his sledge journey, with twenty companions and three weeks' provisions. His first adventure was with the walrus:—

The duty of naturalist compels me to notice the conduct of these warm-blooded animals on being wounded. The father, mother, and cubs were of the party. On the death of the mother, or rather on receiving her wound in the neck, it was painfully interesting to notice the action of her young: one literally clasped her round the neck, and was apparently endeavouring to aid in staunching the blood with its mouth or flipper, when at a sudden convulsive pang she struck at her infant with her tusks, and repeating this several times with some severity, prevented its further repetition.

Sir Edward Belcher's relation is more varied than the generality of Arctic narratives. Though pompous, he is lively, and his egotism tempts him to mention slight incidents by the way, which will amuse the general reader more, perhaps than his own companions. To the customary descriptions of icebergs, snowy coasts, boat excursions, walrus and bear-hunting, interviews with the natives, winter comforts and convivialities, he adds notes of his comrades' actions, tempers, &c. We will quote, as an example of his lighter style, an account of a performance amid a northern tempest, "under the distinguished patronage of Sir Edward Belcher, C.B.":—

As the play-bill intimates, the subjects selected were "The Irish Tutor," and "The Silent Woman."

The theatre was got up with considerable taste, and every character admirably supported, even to a most troublesome one-eyed pie and ginger-beer man, who most pertinaciously chose to present himself at the Royal Box. He knew full well her Majesty and the Prince could not travel this weather; indeed, he had heard the apology from the Lord Chamberlain read by the Sole Lessee, explaining the cause, and intimating her most gracious pleasure that the men should not forget Mr. Allsopp, which latter sentence was received with thunders of applause. As to hearing anything, Boreas had it all his own way: it lay principally between

him and a Woolwich waterman politely intimating that "the last boat would start positively at eleven."

As we were unable to hear, it is almost needless to add that the excellence of the acting entirely superseded the noise of the tempest; and between it and the music, of which "Cease rude Boreas" could not be heard, and but imperfectly understood by the tremulous fingers of the musicians, the evening terminated satisfactorily. The manager, being most loudly called for, at length appeared, and, having overcome his modesty, made a very taking speech, not omitting Allsopp in conclusion, and retired, promising to omit no exertion to please at a more propitious day.

The temperature during the performance may be assumed as near 17° as possible. This would be warm if calm, but the breeze in the boxes made it cutting: nothing but the most determined loyalty rendered it endurable.

"Hamlet" was afterwards performed, on the shortest day, with more success. Sir Edward, with a few apologies for the sake of dignity, tells how he consented urbanely (though all "who knew him well" knew that "such pageants are not to his taste"), to ride from the Assistance to the Pioneer, in a State sledge, with twelve of her Majesty's "Polars" to draw him.

The result of the expedition is well known. It proved the futility of Franklin research. Sir Edward Belcher determined, in September, 1854, to prefer the safety of a crew to the safety of a ship, and took those steps which involved him in an Admiralty investigation. He was acquitted professionally, and we think public opinion has ratified the finding of the Court. In the chapter devoted to his defence, his style is more manly than in any other. Accused, by implication, of timid and selfish conduct, he maintains that, on the contrary, his conduct was generous and bold. He gave up chances of fame, and risked the displeasure of the naval lords, to bring home safely those who had been put under his command. It is to be remembered that his duty was, not to explore the north-west passage, but to search for Sir John Franklin. When that search became hopeless, it was equally his duty to return; and as, upon his conscience, he believed all the vessels could not be brought away without a loss of time, which might risk the existence of the crews, he chose a prudent part, and deserves praise instead of suspicion. On the subject of the North-West Passage, however, he has opinions to state. The original intention of Parliament was, to reward any navigator who, by discovering a channel to sea to sea, and proving America to be an island, should open a new path to commerce. Parry, completing a portion between the meridians undiscovered, started and established his claims: Franklin, Richardson, Dease and Simpson, though they saw the opening, did not pass through, and lost the recognition of their labours. Sir John Franklin, it is now maintained by his family and friends, did sail down Peel's Strait in open water and arrive at all the discoveries that McClure believes to be his own. This, however, is a question impossible to determine. Not knowing whither Franklin went, who can predicate the extent of his researches?

Sir Edward Belcher anticipates a time when trade currents will set through the North-West Passage, and when there will be a safe and easy line of navigation through the Arctic. The way having been found, the next step will be to use it. We should like, however, to have a practical solution of the difficulty—such a solution as Magellan gave when he arrived in the Philippines, after sailing under the coasts of Terra del Fuego.

This narrative, we have said, is disfigured by its writer's vanity. It is pretentious, and not always grammatical; but these defects do not deprive it of interest. It contains much new information, and is beautifully illustrated with tinted lithographs. The sketches of Arctic scenery, with its hard brown and yellow cliffs, like the protruding bones of the earth, its sea and sky of deep, cold blue, its white coasts, its gigantic icebergs, broken fantastically into horns and crags, and the magical aspects of its sun and moon, are singularly vivid and faithful. The appendix contains valuable papers, on Arctic fish, by Sir John Richardson; on fossils, by J. W. Salter; on the remains of an ichthyosaurus, by Professor Owen; on the crustacea, by Mr. Thomas Bell; and on the shells, by Mr. Lovell Reeve, whose attainments in that branch of natural history equal those of any European professor.

#### LAURA GAY.

*Laura Gay.* A Novel. 2 vols.

Hurst and Blackett.

There are politics in this novel. The hero is a member of Parliament; the hero's foil is a member of Parliament also; both are representatives of boroughs, the one being a money-lover, with the arts of a demagogue, the other a casuistical and virtuous "independent," too liberal to be a Tory, too honest to be a Whig, too cold to be a Radical. Some of his adventures in life are designed as illustrations of the English electoral system. For instance, on returning from a Roman tour, he finds himself the chosen of Hyde, simply because he is his own father's son. A third personage, Lord Flaxley, heir to an earldom, is added to the list of parliamentary "characters." He is introduced, begging votes from a lady who is fortunate enough to have the consciences of a numerous tenantry in her keeping. So far *Laura Gay* stands prominent among the novels of the season. Its political sketches are not very vivid, nor is the idea, which is good, worked out with sufficient knowledge of English public life, or with sufficient command of detail. The narrative, however, glides along evenly; it is disfigured by no extravagance; occasionally it presents a well-conceived picture. In all parts, except the dialogues, which are stiff with the starch of pedantry, there is enough reality to convince us that, although the author of *Laura Gay* is an immature writer, he may produce things far more readable than this—obviously his first publication.

In addition to the political colouring there is, of course—or, rather, not of course, because "the philosophical novel" excludes sentiment—a plot of love. It is a thin tissue, woven out of a single incident; but, pardoning some needless elaboration, the story excites and sustains a powerful interest; not that there is originality in the main conception—itsself a trifle—but that the tale is a quiet one, told pleasantly as it might be by one friend to another, unless, indeed, where the "conversations" interpose, with their dark profundities and dismal proprieties of speech. Ladies who fancy they open the oyster of the world when they exhaust the circulating library, may be assured that if *Laura Gay*, Charles Thornton, Lady Cecilia, Mr. Ballennie,

and Mr. Redford ever did meet in the Capitol, at Rome, their dialectics were not such as are here represented. Mr. Ballennie, especially, who is described with much malice as a "literary man," talks like the exponent of a (cheap) panorama. When *Laura* herself quotes Latin, it is with a firmness of expression most unconvictional. By all means, therefore, when this writer publishes his second romance, let his dialogues be as brief as possible, or let him extend his studies and mend his style. The following, between *Laura*—who is an indefinite Liberal—and a Whig peer, is by no means the worst in the volume:—

"So you are one of my son's chief constituents, Miss Gay? I hope you have no fault to find with his representation in Parliament."

"I told Lord Flaxley," said *Laura*, with a smile, "when he came to canvass me, that talking was more in my line than voting."

"Did you talk him into a proper conception of his duties?"

"I did not attempt it. I believe he received his orders from Mr. Simkins and your lordship; you know, therefore, far better than myself how far they were compatible, and to what extent they have been followed."

"I fear you are not so staunch a Whig as I had hoped."

"I am not a Whig at all."

"Not a Whig!" exclaimed his lordship, with a comical expression of surprise; "you surely don't mean to say you are a Tory?"

"No," said *Laura*, "nor a Radical either."

"Thank God! you are not the latter; but what are you, then?"

"A mere looker-on—quite satisfied with things as they are, or rather as they are going to be, and a staunch partisan of honest and capable men."

"Well, but that is exactly what all Whigs profess to be."

"Very well," replied *Laura*, "they are happy if they can believe so much good of themselves; but, surely, you know that there is a different opinion current respecting your party."

"And pray what is it?"

"That they are an old family faction, who did good service in their day, and were well paid for it; but that now they are devoted to patronage, and not to patriotism."

"That's the unkindest cut of all," rejoined his lordship, rising to go.

Indeed, in this bit of dialogue, the author exhibits his political theory, which is, that Toryism has become an impossibility, and Whiggery an imposture, and that Radicalism means nothing. Since, however, the word Radical has a meaning, which the words Whig and Tory have not, he is wrong. Redford is another effort at political sketching. He is the demagogue—that is, the trader. We have heard of men like him:—

His manners were sufficiently ill-conditioned and selfish to exclude him from the society of equals and superiors. Pride forbade a contented association with inferiors.

The career he naturally espoused was that of the demagogue, who with ready tongue and specious wit can mislead the mob, by representing its passions, and by expressing with heartfelt rancour its hatred against all those who seem to possess the material gratifications it desires. Thus, too, he might settle old scores with the governor and the parsons, by irritating the former, and holding up the frailties of the latter to public scorn and ridicule. Yet, clever as he supposed himself to be, in the knowledge of the worst impulses of the human heart, he had not justly estimated that of his worthy sire. Old Redford was, it is true, greatly aggravated against his flesh and blood, when first it broke into open rebellion. The Radical club, the Chartist meetings, the abominable, scurrilous periodicals, the low political associates, were all so many thorns added to the goad of defiance. His son was of age, and nothing remained to the parent by way of correction, save a withdrawal of the ways and means: this corrective, promptly applied, and continued during two years, failed not to procure both father and son the gratification of their direct enmity. The one was supported in his righteous indignation by his patrons of the Church—the other supported himself by pungent writing in monthly periodicals, and the more independent pleasure of reviling his father. So the feud might have continued, until the zealous had reaped the reward of their labours, if the talents and bitterness of the unscrupulous writer had not found an echo in the breasts and the interests of a section of the community, whose country extends no further than their own party and their own friends. Not that they adopted him into the bosom of their clique; they only accepted him as a formidable ally. He visited at one or two houses of the great, and by bullying he attained a better position than, with all his wheedling, old Redford had won.

One merit of *Laura Gay*, and in a first book it is a rare merit, is, that the author shuns fine writing. When he attempts landscape, even in Italy, his colours are soft; he spreads them gently, they do not blind the reader. When he studies the human passions the picture may be confused, but it is not violent. *Laura Gay*, therefore, is a book of good promise, interesting as a story; and though wanting in fine effects and subtle suggestions, undoubtedly clever.

#### The Arts.

##### THE HAYMARKET REVIVAL OF THE "BEAUX' STRATAGEM."

THE comedies of WYCHERLEY, CONGREVE, VANBRUGH, FARQUHAR, and their contemporaries, once occupying the very height of popularity, have for many years ceased to hold a position on the stage, and are almost unknown to the ordinary theatre-goer. The reason for this is not difficult to find, though we think it has been generally missed by the writers on the old school of comedy, who assign, as the causes of a change so remarkable, the profligacy of the elder writers, and the high intellectual subtlety of their wit, which it is the fashion to suppose is far above the comprehension of these times, though properly appreciated by the superior beings of the days of CHARLES II. and QUEEN ANNE. Now, we venture to doubt both assertions. As far as licence is concerned, it would be as well to consider that an age which not only tolerates, but encourages, translations from the French, where the characters are perpetually toying with adultery, and gambolling in a sort of masquerade habit on the borders of illicit passion, cannot be excessively prudish; and, with respect to subtleties of wit, audiences who can give success after success to the plays of DOUGLAS JERROLD, despite their uninteresting plots, and merely for the sake of their sparkling repartee and intellectual matter, must possess some admiration for that which appeals



to their brains—must, in short, have a modicum of brains to answer the appeal. The disfavour into which CONGREVE and others of his school have fallen, arises, as we conceive, partly from the plain speaking of their prodigality (for now-a-days we demand that our immoralities should be delicately wrapped up in innuendo), and partly from a better motive—from a dislike, or rather a horror, of that uniform disbelief in anything good or noble which was the central principle in the dramas of the earlier comedy writers. Licence in itself, though bad, is but a venial sin compared with this shocking obliteration of the instinctive sentiments of humanity. Licence is not necessarily inconsistent with generosity of nature, and with faith in the goodness of the heart; but the writers of the age of CHARLES II. and ANNE denied the least spark of nobility in any human act—denied the very possibility of virtue in deed or aspiration. Utter selfishness, meanness, and disregard of others—a cold, calculating, smiling, sparkling villany—the heart corrupt to its very centre, and the brain a mere cynic without the grandeur of self-denial—such was the picture of human nature which those classics of the stage presented night after night to delighted audiences, who thought they were seeing vice castigated, but were in fact abetting its extension. For, if the charge against humanity was anything approaching truth, the flaunting it so gaily in the face of the world could only increase the evil, by offering the excuse of universality; if false, which we believe it to have been, it was a libel on mankind. Therefore, we are inclined to agree with JEREMY COLLIER that the influence of such exhibitions was demoralising, though we arrive at the conclusion by roads very different from those travelled by that dirt-eating divine.

FARQUHAR was the least sinner in this respect of any of his school, though bad enough; and the *Beaux' Stratagem*, produced as a relic of bygone tastes, will do no harm to audiences of the present day. It may be doubted, however, if it will ever become popular. To say the truth, it is rather dull as an acting comedy. It possesses what we conceive were the common faults of all of its class—a frittering away of the dramatic action into a number of small sections, so that no one character is brought into any prominent relief; and a want of that skilful combination by which the various incidents are brought to bear upon one common centre, and to aid in the elaboration or the disentanglement of the plot. Perhaps, also, our modern tastes have been accustomed to the quick movement of the lighter pieces from the French, and to the effective and tableau-like termination of the acts; all of which we miss in the *Beaux' Stratagem*. But there is abundant knowledge of the villainous side of human nature—abundant wit and

biting satire; and the HAYMARKET company did their best last Saturday night to give vitality to this disagreeable view of life. The principal acting lay with Miss REYNOLDS and Mr. BUCKSTONE. The former performed the part of *Mrs. Sullen* with vivacity and spirit. It was a difficult part, for the lady is all along intriguing against her husband up to a certain point, yet perpetually holding to her honour for safety against dangerous extremities; but Miss REYNOLDS managed to convey the general idea of the character without offending the audience. BUCKSTONE was inexpressibly ludicrous in the country servant, *Scrub*, suddenly awakened to coxcombical ideas of gait and gesture by the example of his supposed fellow-servant, the disguised gentleman, *Archer* (HOWE); and his imitation of the mock illness of *Aimwell* (Mr. W. FARREN)—his soothing encouragement of himself to "take a little of this cordial water"—*videlicet*, the contents of a tankard of strong ale—were evidences of high comic faculty. This incident, however, is an interpolation; and we remarked some others. HOWE and FARREN played the two rakes with life and energy, though without any conspicuous talent; and Miss SWANBOROUGH did the most that was possible for the uninteresting character of *Dorinda*. Miss BELLA COPPLELAND, who performed the landlord's daughter, *Cherry*, is a young lady new to the stage. She has a slight figure and a small voice; but plays with a pleasant freshness and absence from conventionalisms. An older actress would have given more sting and smartness to *Cherry*, but might have failed to interest us as much.

Mr. STERLING COYNE has supplied the ADELPHI with a telling title for the bills, and that is the best that can be said for *Urgent Private Affairs*, except to add that WRIGHT is amusing under difficulties, and the audience crowded and amused.

From Paris we are glad to hear that M. EDMOND ABOUT's new comedy is definitely in rehearsal at the THEATRE FRANCAIS, and it is hoped will be ready for the forthcoming Carnival season. The title of the comedy is *Guillery*; it is in three acts, and in prose; the principal characters will be acted by MM. PROVOST, GOT, ANSELME, and BACHE, Mdles. NATHALIE and VALERIE. Great expectations are formed of the success of the first dramatic essay of the young and brilliant author of *Tolla* and of those charming sketches of society, *Les Mariages de Paris*, now appearing in the *feuilleton* of the *Moniteur*. *Guillery* is said to be full of wit and vivacity, and it is to be splendidly put on the stage.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

## BIRTHS.

JACKSON.—On the 5th inst., at 53, Notting-hill-square, the wife of Robert Jackson, M.D.: a son.  
KING.—On the 4th inst., at Woburn, Chertsey, the Hon. Mr. Locke King: a daughter.  
LEBAHN.—On the 8th inst., at 1, Annett's-crescent, Islington, the wife of Dr. Felix Lebahn: a son.

## MARRIAGES.

BAXENDALE—JONES.—On the 3d inst., at St. Peter's, Fulham, Salisbury, youngest son of Joseph Baxendale, Esq., of Woodside, a Whetstone, to Edith Marian, third daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Jones, K.C.B.  
BURKE—MACEVOY.—On the 8th inst., in Dublin, Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms, to Barbara Frances, younger daughter of the late James Macevoy, Esq., of Teberin, co. Meath, and granddaughter of Sir Joshua C. Meredith, Bart.  
DORR—HARRIMAN.—On the 3d inst., at James's Church, Piccadilly, Charles Edouard Napoleon Dorr, son of Monsieur Charles Dorr, to Margaret Bowman, daughter of the late Hon. Roger Kello, and widow of Joseph Harriman, Esq.

## DEATHS.

CHAMPION.—On the 8th ult., at Kamiesch, of cholera, whilst in the zealous discharge of his duty, Henry Season, youngest son of the late Charles Champion, Commander R.N.

BROWNE.—On the 15th ult., in camp before Sebastopol, after a few days' illness, Lieut. Basil Henry Browne, 77th Regiment, in his 19th year, younger son of the Rector of Toft and Newton, Lincolnshire.

BEATTY.—On the 14th of November, at Kurrachee, aged 20, Jane Cleland, wife of Thomas Berkeley Beatty, Esq., civil surgeon, and eldest daughter of Major-General Woodburn, C.B.

GILL.—On the 30th ult., at Exeter, in her 99th year, Mrs. Gill, grandmother of the Rev. William Gill, Karotonga, South Sea Islands.

DEVONSHIRE.—On the 6th inst., at 11, Clapton-square, after protracted suffering, Sarah, beloved wife of Mr. R. Devonshire, and affectionate mother of Mrs. William Gill, Karotonga, aged 63.

DUDLEY.—On the 7th inst., at the Vicarage, Sibley, the Rev. John Dudley, in the 94th year of his age, for nearly sixty years vicar of Sibley and of Humberston, Leicestershire, senior magistrate of the County; Second Wrangler and Mathematical Prizeman, 1785, of Clare Hall, Cambridge, Fellow 1787, elected by the University to preach the Buchanan Sermon 1809, published by request; Author of "The Metaphoraphs of Sona," "A Dissertation on the Rivers Niger and Nile," "Naology," "The Anti-Materialist," and various Essays.

MIVART.—On the 3th inst., at his residence, 10, College-crescent, Finchley-road, to the inexpressible grief of his widow and family, James Edward Mivart, aged 75, for more than forty years the proprietor of the well-known hotel in Brook-street, Grosvenor-square.

TREGURTHA.—On the 18th ult., at her residence, Myrtle cottage, Newlyn, near Penzance, in her 83rd year, Mary Tregurtha, widow of Edward Primrose Tregurtha, Esq., late Commander in the Royal Navy.

## FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, January 8.

BANKRUPT.—MALCOLM RONALD LANG MEARON, Winchester buildings, merchant—ELIZABETH and AARAK BENSON, Mansfield-street, Portland-place, hotel keepers—JOSEPH SOLMES, Hertford, innkeeper—EDWARD LUDG, Cambridge, draper—JOHN PAGE, Chelmsford, Essex, coach builder—JAMES CRAIG HARRING and WILLIAM HERRING, Sunderland, merchants—CHARLES SLOUGH, Nottingham, lace manufacturer—WILLIAM THOMAS, Cardiff, Glamorgan, sailmaker and

ship chandler—JOHN DEAKIN, Turner-street, Sheffield, joiner, coach builder, and beer seller—JOHN HARDMAN, EDWARD HARDMAN, and WILLIAM GARRA, Sutton, near St. Helen's, Lanc. asier, iron and brass founders and engineers—JOSEPH HUGHES, Manchester, fusian manufacturer—BANCROFT PIEN-POINT BROOK, Heaton Norris, Lancaster, grocer.

SCOTCH BANKRUPTS.—JOHN ANDREW SMITH, High-street, Edinburgh, baker—CHARLES OTTO, Glasgow, hotel keeper and horse dealer.

Friday, January 11.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—GEORGE WEATHERHEAD, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, joiner.

BANKRUPTS.—ROBERT TURNER, Ludgate hill, draper—JAMES WILSON, Grafton-road, Kenilworth, ship broker—THOMAS HAMPTON, Broadwater, Sussex, corn merchant—GEORGE L. NODEN, Welton-in-the-Marsh, Lincoln, draper—EDWARD KIRKMAN SANDERSON, West Kinnald Ferry, Lincoln, seed crusher—JOHN RICHARDS, Cardiff, ship owner—ALEXANDER ANDERSON, Stourbridge, innkeeper—THOMAS WHITEHEAD and JOSEPH LARRY Morley, Yorkshire, dyers—JAMES PRATT and CHARLES ARSON, Cas leford, Yorkshire, earthenware manufacturers—CHARLES FOX, Manchester, printer—SAMUEL LOWE, Oldham, provision dealer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—MACDONALD and BAIRD, Glasgow, clothiers—ALEXANDER MACINNES, Inverness, merchant—JOHN McHARDY, senior, Storchaven, gardener and merchant—JOHN BRIDGEMAN, Muirtown, near Inverness, hotel keeper.

## Commercial Affairs.

## MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

London, Friday Evening, Jan. 11, 1856.

The settling day in the English Funds has taken place this week. The fluctuations have been very considerable during the week, but the market is firmer in appearance. The Bank directors broke up yesterday, without raising the rate of discount, in anticipation of which there had been some heavy sales effected on Tuesday and Wednesday. It would still seem from the price paid for continuations, that the Bulls, speculatively considered, are in the majority, and the Speech from the Throne, accompanied by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's hints as to the future, will be known. Loans, increased income-tax, a divided Cabinet, perhaps, and a dissolution ahead, will all go to weaken the price of the Funds.

In the Foreign Stocks there has been a fall. Turkish Six per Cent. at one time were as low as 79½, but have rallied again. Railway securities are of course lower, but have not sympathized much with the fall in the Funds, as is their wont.

Eastern Counties are considerably flatter. The report of the Government Inspector on a portion of their line, showing its insecurity and dangerous state, of course has been the cause. Great Westerns are lower, also. Great Western of Canada, &c. In the Foreign Mining Market there has been no trade to speak of, although in the English Mining Market there has been much investment. Crystal Palaces remain the same. At four o'clock Consols closed heavily at 86½. Heavy Government sales are said to be the cause. Outside the Stock Exchange this is true to a great extent, but the feeling in the "House" is decidedly "Bear."

As to any peace negotiations of any mark being arranged, the idea now seems to be abandoned. If so, the question arises, are Consols worth their present prices, are they worth more than 13? The investments to be made by dividends and trust money are in course of completion, and unless there is a very different feeling on the part of the Allies towards Russia, and of Russia towards the Allies, we must see the funds lower before next account. Parliament will meet ten days before.

## CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, Jan. 11, 1856.

The supplies of Wheat here and in the provinces have this week been small, and the demand from the Continent for both English and Egyptian has been renewed. To-day prices are 1s. to 2s. dearer than they were this day week, and at all ports it is impossible to buy except at an advance of 3s. per quarter. Saldi Wheat has been sold at 32s. and 53s. 6d., and Behira 51s. to the United Kingdom. Barley is in demand, both for home consumption and for Holland. Oats are in good supply, and the turn in favour of buyers. Beans and Peas remain unaltered in value. Indian Corn finds purchasers, Galats at 43s. 6d., and Thrall, 41s. 6d. cost freight and insurance.

Aberdeen, 22, 3; Bristol and Exeter, 79, 81; Caledonian 52½, 4; Chester and Holyhead, 10, 12; East Anglian 11, 12; Eastern Counties, 81, 8; Edinburgh and Glasgow 50, 2; Great Northern, 87½, 8; Ditto, A stock, 73, 3; Ditto B stock, 119, 121; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 102, 104; Great Western, 81½, 2; Lancashire and Carlisle, 70, 5; Ditto, Thirds, 51, 4 pm; Ditto, new Thirds, 54, 4 pm; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 76, 3; London and Blackwall, 51, 6; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 93, 4; London and North Western, 93½, 4; Ditto South Ditto, 64, 5; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 23, 4; Metropolitan, 3, 4 dis; Midland, 63, 4; Ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 37, 8; Newport, Aberavenny, and Hereford, 9, 10; North British, 28, 9; North Eastern (Berwick), 66, 7; Ditto, Extension, 81, 4 dis; Ditto, Great North Eastern, purchases, 5, 4 dis; Ditto, Leeds, 12, 12½; Ditto, York, 44, 5; North Staffordshire, 81, 1 dis; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 21, 2; Scottish Central, 101, 103; Scottish Midland, 72, 4; South Devon, 104, 11; South Eastern (Dover), 56, 7; South Wales, 65, 7; Vale of Neath, 104, 10; West Cornwall, 4, 6; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 74, 8; Ardennes, —; Eastern of France, Paris and Strasbourg, 33, 1; East India, 21, 4; Ditto, £1000, —; Grand Trunk of Canada, 104, 9 dis; Great Indian Peninsula, 81, 4; Luxembourg, 31, 1; Great Western of Canada, 24, 1; North of France, 33½, 1; Paris and Lyons, 43, 1; Paris and Orleans, 43, 5; Sambre and Meuse, 81, 3; Western and N.W. of France, 25, 9; Agua Fria, —; Australian, 1, 1; Brazil Imperial, 11, 1; Cacao, 3, 1; St. John del Rey, 27, 9.

## BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Bank Stock .....	207	207	207	207	207	207
3 per Cent. Reduced .....	87½	87½	86½	86½	87½	86½
3 per Cent. Con. An. ....	86½	86½	86½	86½	86½	86
Consols for Account .....	87½	86½	86½	86½	86½	86½
New 3 per Cent. An. ....	87½	87½	87½	86½	87	87
New 3½ per Cent. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1855 .....	16½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
India Stock .....	.....	.....	.....	214½	214½	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000 .....	.....	.....	.....	86, d	86, d	.....
Ditto, under £1000 .....	.....	.....	.....	86, d	86, d	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000 .....	48, d	48, d	48, d	48, d	48, d	48, d
Ditto, £500 .....	.....	.....	.....	48, d	48, d	48, d
Ditto, Small .....	86, d	86, d	86, d	86, d	86, d	86, d

## FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds .....	99	Portuguese 5 per Cent.	.....
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents ..	85	Russian Bonds, 5 per	.....
Chilian 5 per Cent. ....	103	Centos .....	86
Chilian 3 per Cent. ....	67	Russian 4½ per Cent. ....	86
Dutch 2½ per Cent. ....	68½	Spanish .....	39
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif. ..	54	Spanish Committee Cert.	.....
Ecuador Bonds .....	.....	of Comp. not fun. ....	.....
Mexican Account .....	26	Turkish 6 per Cent. ....	89
Peruvian 4½ per Cent. ....	75	Turkish New, 4 ditto .....	41
Portuguese 4 per Cent. ....	.....	Venezuela, 3½ per Cent.	.....

**THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.**

First night of Grand Operatic Drama.—First appearance in London of PROFESSOR ANDERSON as "ROB ROY," as performed by him in Scotland, and in all the Theatres of America. First Night of "Les Comedians Amateurs," by M. E. Boutellier. The Italian Brothers (M. G. Lariet and Messrs. Caudier, file), who will introduce their most novel and startling performance in the course of the Pantomime.

On MONDAY, January 14th, will be presented the Grand Operatic Drama of "ROB ROY" with all the Original Songs, Choruses, and Dances, including the whole of Sir Henry Bishop's Celebrated Music. The Drama will be represented as it is played in Glasgow. Rob Roy, Professor Anderson; Rachel, Octavio; Mr. Scott; Francis Osbaldiston, Mr. George Perin; Major Galbraith, Mr. S. Cowell; Bailie Nicol Jarvie, Mr. Gourlay; The Dougal, Mr. Harry Pearson; Helen Macgregor, Mrs. J. W. Wallack; Diana Vernon, Miss Harriet Gordon. To conclude with the Grand, National, Historical, and Chivalric PANTOMIME, which has been so long in preparation, and on the production of which so large an expense has been incurred, of **YE BELLE ALLANCE**, or **HARLEQUIN GOOD HUMOUR**, and **YE FIELDS OF THE CLOTH OF GOLDE**, being a **LEGEND OF THE MEETING OF THE MONARCHS**. Scene 1. "The Caverns of the Gnome Britannicus in Subterranean Asia." Britannicus, Mr. John Neville. Scene 2. "The Land's End, Cornwall, with the Car of the Dragons." Good Humour, Miss Harriet Gordon. Scene 3. "The Deck of the Great Harry," 4-decker, 128 guns (the First English Man-of-War). Henry the Eighth, Mr. Harry Pearson; Cardinal Wolsey, Mr. P. Q. Villiers; Sir Jasper Spritsail (Commander of the "Great Harry"), Mr. D. Stewart. Scene 4. The Interior of the Chateau of Francis I. between Guineas and Ardenne; Francis I., Mr. W. Shalders; Le Sire de Brambois, Mr. H. Carley. Scene 5. "The Field of the Cloth of Gold, introducing a Grand Pas de Rosiere, by Miss Emma Horne and Corps de Ballet." Scene 6. "Grand Corridore in the Chateau, leading to the Bedchamber of the Monarchs." Scene 7. "The outside of Blondette's Farm." Blondette, Miss Emma Horne; Coquelicot, Mr. C. Brown. Scene 8. "The Abode of the Fairy Queen in the Golden Groves of Good Humour," by Mr. William Beverley. The Fairy Queen, Miss E. Thorne. General Transformation—Harlequin, Mr. C. Brown; Pantaloon, W. A. Barnes (the Transatlantic Pantomimist); Columbine, Miss Emma Horne; Clown, the Great Flexmore. The Apotheosis of YE BELLE ALLANCE. (Designed by M. Guerin, England and France—Mourners at the Altar, Victors on the Throne. The Coronation with the Coronals of Valour by the Genius of Victory. Doors open at half-past six; commence at seven.) Grand Fashionable MORNING PERFORMANCE of the PANTOMIME on SATURDAY, Jan. 19, at Two o'clock. Doors open at half-past One.

In Rehearsal, and shortly will be produced, an entirely New Farce, entitled, "TWENTY MINUTES WITH AN IMPUDENT PUPPY."

**ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.**—Lessee and Manager, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday and during the week (Thursday excepted, Mr. A. Wigan having the honour to appear at Windsor Castle on that evening) will be performed the Play of **THE JEALOUS WIFE**; characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, G. Vining, Emery, Leslie, Danvers, Mrs. Stirling, and Miss Marston. After which will be produced a new and doubly-moral, though excessively old, Melodramatic Fairy Extravaganza, entitled **THE DISCREET PRINCESS**; or, **THE THREE GLASS DISTAFFS**; in which Messrs. Emery, F. Robson, H. Cooper, Miss Marston, and Miss Maskell will appear.

**MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT-LIND.** EXETER-HALL.

MEYERSON'S ELIJAH.

**MR. MITCHELL** respectfully announces that Mendelssohn's Oratorio of **ELIJAH**

will be repeated at Exeter Hall, on MONDAY EVENING, January 21, 1856, and in which **MADAME GOLDSCHMIDT**, will sing the principal soprano part.

The Chorus and Orchestra will consist of more than 600 Performers. Conductor, M. BENEDET. Prices of Admission:—Stalls (Numbered and Reserved), £1 1s.; Unreserved Seats (Body of the Hall) and West Gallery, 10s. 6d.; Arena (under West Gallery), 7s.

Doors open at Seven, to commence at Eight o'clock precisely.

The Tickets will be appropriated according to the order of application, and no more will be issued than the Hall can conveniently accommodate.

A correct book of the Oratorio is given with the Tickets. Application for Tickets to be made at Mr. MITCHELL'S Royal Library, 33, Old Bond street.

**DR. KAHN'S CELEBRATED ANATOMICAL MUSEUM**, 4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square (open for Gentlemen only), the rarity and completeness of whose contents have already acquired for it an European reputation, and obtained the warm commendations of the press in this and other countries is now open daily. A New Series of Original Specimens and Models, embracing some most important and curious features, illustrative of the wonders and secrets of the Human Structure, has just been added to the Collection, which now stands wholly unrivalled in the world. Medical practitioners and students and the public at large are invited to visit the Museum, where Lectures are delivered during the day, and a new and peculiarly interesting one is delivered by Dr. KAHN, at half-past Eight o'clock every Evening, on the Reproductive Functions in Man. Admission, One Shilling. Just published, price 1s., free by post (gratis to Visitors to the Museum), a new edition of Dr. KAHN'S Treatise, **THE SHOALS AND QUICKSANDS OF YOUTH**. An Essay, specially intended to avert dangers to which the young and susceptible are peculiarly liable, and to arrest the progress of evil.

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